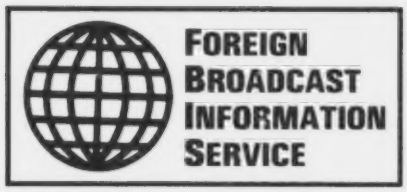

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-177
Tuesday
13 September 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-177 *13 September 1988*

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Nicaragua Proposes C.A. Foreign Ministers Meet

PA1309001288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2326 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] San Jose, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—It was reported here today that Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has invited his Central American counterparts to hold the next meeting of the Esquipulas II agreement's Executive Commission in Nicaragua on 17 September.

Danilo Abud Vivas, former Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras and current director of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry's Latin America and Caribbean Department, told ACAN-EFE that the invitation has been issued but to date no country has replied. [passage omitted]

Abud Vivas said there have been problems because Honduras maintains the position that it will not attend any meeting if Nicaragua does not withdraw the suit it filed against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague in July 1986. Managua resorted to the ICJ because of the Nicaraguan rebels' use of Honduran territory.

If there is agreement on this meeting, the foreign ministers would draft an agenda for a possible presidential summit in El Salvador at the end of October. [passage omitted]

Americas' Air Forces Organization Meets in Lima

PY0609173588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0325 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 5 Sep (EFE)—With delegations from 14 countries of the Americas in attendance, the 15th meeting of the Training Committee of the America's Air Forces Cooperation System (SICOFAA) got under way today.

Issues and proposals for multilateral support, including new developments in the field of aeronautics, will be analyzed during the 5-day meeting. Its objective is to upgrade the training, professionalism, and effectiveness of military aviation, reports an ANDINA press agency dispatch.

The meeting is chaired by the Peruvian Air Force (FAP) for the 2d consecutive year. At the opening session the FAP expressed its sentiments of friendship and solidarity with the delegation in attendance.

The ANDINA dispatch notes that the SICOFAA activities contribute to maintaining peace in the hemisphere, as well as to mutual understanding that makes it possible to exchange experiences in various aspects of military aviation.

The meeting, which opened at the Aeronautics Center of Peru, is being attended by delegations from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, the United States, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Cuba

Envoy to UK, Trade Attache Ordered To Leave

FL1209235888 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2344 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Last-minute reports from Western press agencies indicate that the Cuban ambassador in Great Britain, Oscar Fernandez Mell, and the third secretary of his delegation, Carlos Medina Perez, were ordered to leave the United Kingdom within the next 24 hours.

The British deputy secretary of foreign affairs [title as heard], Timothy Eggar, called the Cuban ambassador to the Foreign Ministry at Whitehall and at 2130 he was told that he and the third secretary had 24 hours to leave the country, and the sooner they could leave, the better.

Further on Expulsion

LD1209222588 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2144 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Cuban ambassador was tonight ordered out of Britain along with an Embassy colleague who fired several shots from a gun in central London.

The expulsions, announced by Foreign Office Minister Mr Timothy Eggar, followed a bizarre shooting incident today in which the Cuban third secretary Medina Perez was arrested—then released when he claimed diplomatic immunity.

Tonight, police believed to be armed and wearing bullet-proof vests were surrounding Senor Perez's flat.

The drama started shortly after 4:30 pm, when Senor Perez, a commercial attache at the Cuban Embassy, produced a gun as he arrived home at Sussex Gardens in Cambridge Square.

He then fired up to five shots at a car full of people who pulled up near him.

One man was said to have jumped on a bus, which was also fired at.

Police were called, the diplomat surrendered himself and a gun, and he was taken under arrest to Paddington Green Police Station.

"It is alleged he fired a number of rounds at persons nearby who immediately dispersed," said Scotland Yard.

But at Paddington Green he claimed full diplomatic privilege and he was freed.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, led by Commander George Churchill-Coleman, was called in.

Later, police sealed off the area around the Sussex Gardens fourth-floor flat, believed to belong to the Cuban Embassy, but the man inside refused to come out.

Cuban Ambassador Dr Oscar Fernandez-Mell was summoned to the Foreign Office by Minister Mr Timothy Eggar tonight.

Dr Fernandez-Mell emerged with an interpreter 20 minutes later to say: "I don't know what happened. There was some trouble in the hall of a man's house. Some men attacked him. But I don't know anything about a gun. It was just a little problem."

The Foreign Office said: "We understand from the police that at about 4:30 pm today an incident occurred in Sussex Gardens, London, W2, when a number of shots were fired by a man subsequently identified as a third secretary at the Cuban Embassy.

"Senor Perez has indicated to the police that he fired the shots fearing for his own safety.

"Mr Timothy Eggar asked the ambassador to call at 9:15 pm. Mr Eggar said that this incident could not under any circumstances be justified.

"The British Government would not tolerate the use of firearms by diplomats in the UK. Mr Eggar said that the ambassador must bear the responsibility for this grave development.

"The only appropriate response was that he must insist that the ambassador and Senor Perez should leave the United Kingdom as soon as possible, but at the latest by midnight tomorrow, Tuesday, September 13."

Tonight, police removed the barriers blocking off streets in the siege area.

But the entrance to the flat at 28 The Quadrangle, just off Sussex Gardens, was still blocked off.

Four markers showing the sites of spent cartridges could be seen in the driveway running along the length of the block of flats.

The flat itself was in darkness, with no movement observable inside.

Senor Perez is said to be a married man.

A large crowd has gathered at the scene. One man said: "There were five gun shots. I saw two policemen in body armour."

The driver of the bus and its occupants were taken away to be interviewed at Paddington Green police station.

The incident comes a little more than a week after a Vietnamese diplomat, also a third secretary, was photographed brandishing a gun outside his embassy's London Embassy.

The Vietnamese ambassador handed over a toy gun, but when it was proved that a real revolver existed Khang Than Nhan was expelled.

It emerged later that the bus driver carried terrified witnesses from the scene of the shooting to the police station.

But London Regional Transport denied reports the 36 bus had been shot at.

It halted at a stop in Sussex Gardens, about 10 yards from the flat, when the crew heard "a number of shots," said a spokeswoman.

A member of the public ran up to the driver and asked him to call the police. He radioed his control centre, which passed on the emergency call.

Several other people fleeing the scene were taken on board and the driver headed off for Paddington Green.

Some passengers got off before it arrived at the police station.

The spokeswoman added: "The driver and conductor were a little bit frightened at first, but kept their heads and coped incredibly well."

The Cuban Embassy, a four-storey building in High Holborn, was securely locked tonight.

Video cameras recorded all callers and lights burned in some upper windows, but there was little sign of activity.

Repeated knocks on the door met with no response and the telephone was unanswered.

Mr Eggar later explained the expulsions on ITN's [Independent Television News] "News at Ten": "Behaviour of the kind that went on this afternoon is simply not acceptable," he said.

He gave the ambassador and Senor Perez 24 hours to quit Britain, and told them to leave earlier if possible. The ambassador made no comment, said Mr Eggar.

The minister said of his meeting with the ambassador: "I think he was under no illusions at all about the very serious attitude that we take to incidents of this kind.

"He was aware from the circular we issued in March this year that diplomats are not allowed to carry firearms, and must have been aware from the publicity surrounding the recent Vietnamese case that we would take strong action.

"We have taken strong action, and I hope the Diplomatic Corps have now got the message. We are not going to have these kinds of incidents on the streets of London."

An eye-witness to the shooting said tonight that she saw four people running away, one holding a blood-soaked handkerchief to his head.

The woman, who lives in a fourth floor flat above Sussex Gardens, said: "First of all I heard some shots—first one and then a whole bunch of them all together."

She ran to the window and looked down as four smartly dressed people—three men and one woman—ran down a side street away from The Quadrangle.

"They were very well dressed, they looked like city people. There was one girl and an elderly man aged about 50. There were also two men about 30 and one of them was running behind with a handkerchief to his forehead. I saw it was full of blood."

The girl was plump, with dark blonde or light brown curly hair tied in a ponytail, and all four were of white European appearance.

"They looked like they were running away from something. They were hurrying more than running, trying to look normal."

She added that in Southwick Street, a turning off Sussex Gardens, a car stopped to pick them up. They got in, it stalled then it roared off.

Another eye-witness, Mrs Joy Cohen, who lives in the flat below the Cuban's, said: "I heard four or five shots. I thought it was a car backfiring."

Cubans had been using the flat for about seven years, she said.

Foreign Ministry Reacts

FL1309125088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1207 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] News agencies reported last night that the UK Government gave Cuban Ambassador Oscar Fernandez Mell and Carlos Medina Perez, third secretary of our mission, 24 hours to leave the country. According to the reports, the decision was taken after an incident in the center of London, in which diplomat Medina Perez allegedly fired several shots at a vehicle carrying several individuals who were following him. Medina Perez was arrested and taken to a police station but he was released after he identified himself as a diplomat, added the reports. Medina Perez said he fired the shots because he feared for his safety.

The UK Foreign Ministry called in Oscar Fernandez Mell, Cuban ambassador to the UK. Deputy Secretary Timothy Eggar told him that Fernandez Mell and the third secretary had 24 hours to leave the country and added that it would be better if they could leave earlier. Eggar stated that the UK Government will not tolerate, under any circumstances, the use of firearms by diplomats in the UK. The ambassador should assume responsibility for the serious incident, he added.

The Labor Party condemned the expulsion of the Cuban ambassador to the UK. It said the government is carrying out a vendetta against the Cuban Embassy. It stressed it considered the measure against Fernandez Mell as frankly abusive and that it had requested an urgent meeting with Deputy Secretary Eggar to ask him to reconsider the measure as far as the ambassador is concerned. According to the information received by the Foreign Ministry from the Cuban Embassy to the UK in London, what really happened is as follows: At 1615 yesterday, Comrade Carlos Medina Perez, trade attache of the Cuban Embassy in London, was approached, as he was leaving the garage of the building where he lives in London, by the deserter and traitor Florentino Azpillaga Lombar, who left his post at the Cuban Embassy in Prague on 6 June of last year, and put himself at the service of the CIA. The traitor Azpillaga was accompanied by three other men and a woman. In a threatening manner, the traitor urged Comrade Carlos Medina to desert. In response, Medina drew the weapon he was carrying and shot at the traitor and the whole group fled. Up to now, the UK authorities have not mentioned the name of traitor Azpillaga, who was supposedly wounded by the shots fired by the Cuban diplomat.

The Foreign Ministry statement notes that according to the reports of our embassy in London, it is absolutely impossible for an individual who is completely in the hands of the CIA and under strict security measures to travel to the UK and carry out this kind of action against a Cuban diplomat in London without the close cooperation of the British intelligence service and the country's authorities. It is possible that now the British authorities and the UK and Yankee espionage services are in an embarrassing position to explain what really happened there.

The statement issued today by the Foreign Ministry questions how Mr Florentino Azpillaga arrived in London, what type of passport he was carrying, what name appeared in his identity documents, who accompanied him, and what the UK authorities know about all this. For the Cuban Foreign Ministry, the decision to expel the Cuban ambassador in London, who had absolutely nothing to do with the incident, is deeply arbitrary and unjust and is only intended to create a scandal as a smokescreen to attempt to hide the shameless cooperation in this embarrasing episode between the CIA and the British intelligence service.

[Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1238 on 13 September, in a similar report, notes that the Foreign Ministry note is carried in the 13 September issue of GRANMA, the PCC organ]

Castro on Soviet Foreign Policy, Third World
PA1009024588 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0157 GMT 4 Sep 88

[Report on President Fidel Castro's meeting with Ecuadoran deputies in Quito, Ecuador, on 12 August]

[Excerpt] On the morning of 12 August, Fidel held a 4-hour meeting with members of the Ecuadoran Congress during which he answered questions from the legislators and addressed at length all the topics in which they were interested, ranging from the rectification process in Cuba and relations with the United States to current international problems.

[Begin Castro recording] I believe that Soviet foreign policy, the Soviet peace policy, and the successes that have been achieved are some of the most extraordinary things Gorbachev has done. He has done a service to mankind, and we should be eternally greatful for this as long as this process continues, as long as this process really leads to detente, to the end of the arms race, and to the decrease of danger. However, this process still has a long way to go. Nevertheless, it has meant new hope for the world.

I think that for us in the Third World, this is very important. To our great satisfaction, for the first time and in a very clear way, the issue of the debt has become a factor in the formation of Soviet foreign policy, and the issue of the unequal trade balance and the new [international economic] order have also become factors in the formation of Soviet foreign policy. There had practically been no talk about these problems. Instead, I would say that they were ignored.

He [Gorbachev] brought up the need for disarmament, but he linked the issue of peace and disarmament with development. He raised the position that we have been defending and that was one of the cornerstones of the proposals we made in 1985, which was when we asked: Where will the resources to solve the debt problem come from? Where will the resources come from to solve the problem of unequal trade so that Third World countries can acquire a purchasing power of hundreds of billions [currency not specified] each year, with each successive year having greater resources?

It is paradoxical that while only 60 to 70 percent of the industrial potential of many of those [developed] countries is being used, it is paradoxical that while those countries have tens of millions of unemployed, here we need what they could produce. The developing countries need many of those machines that they could produce. We have always said that if we had purchasing power, even the industrialized countries would benefit from it.

Well then, to our great satisfaction, one of the banners raised by Gorbachev in his foreign policy is the issue of directing the resources from the arms race toward development.

From the political viewpoint, this is, of course, unobjectionable, but this is not achieved with just words alone. Trade unions will not achieve wage improvements by making speeches. That is the truth. Trade unions obtain wage improvements when they unite and when they struggle. However, we poor have not even been able to form a union or to act as a small union. Trade unions unite and make demands. That is why I was saying that ideas are very important because they provide orientation and clarification; however, the main thing is to struggle for our needs. Therefore, we do not disagree in the least with Gorbachev's foreign policy. On the contrary, we resolutely, firmly, and enthusiastically support it, fully aware of what the end of the arms race and what the reduction of the threat of total destruction would mean. Of course, those that would have more to lose are the consumer-based societies. We, on the other hand, would lose less.

In addition, for us a declared war has been in existence for a long time. I can give you a figure, and it is a fact that every 3 days, 40,000 children die in the Third World from curable diseases. These are children who could be saved, 120,000 [figure as heard] every 3 days. I have said on some occasions that every 3 days, a bomb with the power of those used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki goes off among Third World children. Who can deny this? The United Nations, health and children's organizations, UNICEF, all of them have the indisputable facts that show that every 3 days, 120,000 children who could be saved die. They do not die in Europe or in the United States. They die in our countries. They die in the Third World.

That is why I say that we are suffering from a war, with the dropping of the equivalent of an atomic bomb among the children every 3 days. I am not talking about the adult population. I am not talking about those who die prematurely. I am not talking about the intelligence that is lost or made defective because of the lack of essential foods at the right age. I am not talking about that. It would take me too long to speak about that.

[Castro continues] Well, I think the way that the Soviet leadership has linked peace, disarmament, development, unequal trade, and the new international economic order is excellent. Of course, it provides moral support. It does not mean that just because there is talk about this or because this principle is proclaimed that there will be progress or that problems will be solved.

The enemy tries to create rifts and to divide the USSR and Cuba. I have spoken with Gorbachev about these topics, and the talks I have held with him have been excellent. He is an intelligent and brilliant man who is easy to talk with. The meetings I have held with him—which have lasted for hours—have been very serious and respectful. One day I told him that the enemy wants to sow dissent among us with the argument that we do not do the same things, that we do things differently. And he asked me: [Words indistinct] why should we have to do things the same way?

A new element of Soviet policy, a new element that we have brought up is that the influence that a socialist country might have, that the USSR might have, cannot stem, as in past times, from orders or from the hegemony of one party over others. The influence that one must aspire to exert is a moral, intellectual, and practical influence. However, efforts are made to sow division between us and the Soviets. It is true that we do not do things in the same way; it would be ridiculous and unforgivable if we did things in the same way. We have consistently applied the principle of work and study. Marx had proposed this.

[Words indistinct] situation of the working class in Britain, how 8-year-old children were working. They found that children could produce, and how terrible it was that children were working 13 or 14 hours a day. They spoke of the combination of work and study. In his teachings, in his ideas, Jose Marti insisted on the combination of work and study. Because of Marx and Marti's teachings, we implemented this. I think this has greatly influenced the younger generations of our people. Those who are under 40 have participated in the work-study system in one way or another. In no socialist country did volunteer work acquire the levels it acquired in our country. We have promoted it. It has its ups and downs. We have had to undertake our rectifications. That began before there was even talk about perestroyka, as a result of the last congress of our party. That is another topic.

I do not want to extend myself too much, but we have had a different education. Our people's spirit of solidarity is very great. The spirit of doing volunteer work and of cooperation is very great, very great. I would really say that it is at a higher level than in any other country. Awareness has been raised. We [words indistinct] each country should apply doctrine adapted to its conditions. Each country should solve its problem with its own formula and solution. I think there should be pluralism in the interpretation of doctrines. It would be a huge, an enormous mistake if a country thinks that the formula it applied is a universal formula. There are no universal formulas. There are no universal solutions.

One of the things that I have said in the analysis of these things, more in the economic field...[Castro changes thought] I would have to speak at length to explain why the application of socialist countries' methods at a specific time in the administration of the economy brought us serious problems. That is why our rectification is partly the rectification of things that we copied and partly things that we invented, which is another story. It began in 1975 and 1976 with the so-called system of economic direction and planning.

It is about these problems to which I referred in that speech [not further specified], and I said that each country should solve its own problems, and I explained how we did things differently. I said that if one's corn aches, why should one seek medicine for a toothache, and if one has a toothache, why should one seek medicine for corns? It would be exactly the same thing if we were to do everything that the Soviets have done to seek solutions to their problems. We have other problems, and we have to seek solutions to our problems. That is the essence of what I am talking about, and I do not think this in any way contradicts the links of friendship and solidarity that should exist among the socialist countries. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Castro Visits Hospital Project, Meets Workers

FL1209133588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] More than 50,000 people in Havana participated yesterday in the Race Against Time, which was run simultaneously in 124 countries. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro fired the shot signaling the start of the race at the Revolution Square. This was the largest marathon ever held in the country. Pioneers, youths, and disabled and older people participated in the event. It was organized by the British philanthropic organization Sports Aid to collect funds for poor children of the world.

Also yesterday, Fidel visited the Miguel Henriquez Hospital expansion project and talked extensively with construction workers. He announced that the east-west highway being built by the Blas Roca Calderio contingent will be ready for use in December. The highway will have three lanes in each direction.

Further on Castro Remarks

FL1209180588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1144 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited yesterday the expansion work at the Miguel Henriquez Hospital in Havana. During his visit, the commander in chief chatted with our construction workers [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] [Castro] Good afternoon. [a group of construction workers answers: "Good afternoon, Commander"] How are you? [Video shows Castro walking outside building under construction along with a group of workers; they are applauding] How are things going? [workers answer: "Fine"] I came to see the project. [Words indistinct] I believe we are going to have more than enough time left.

[Unidentified worker] No way.

[Castro] Are things through?

[Worker] Yes.

[Castro] How pretty those [words indistinct] look! Where did they make those panels?

[Worker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] Then not everything is done poorly by the prefabricated panel plants?

[Worker] Those are of very good quality.

[Castro] They are doing some good things.

[Worker] This was the first time they were used in this way [words indistinct].

[Castro] How are those decorations done? What are they called?

[Worker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] [Words indistinct] Were these done especially for this hospital?

[Worker] Yes, especially for this hospital.

[Castro] But we could use it....

[Worker, interrupting] In other hospitals. Our goal is... [changes thought] because this was done, tests were carried out with white cement to see if we could do this in other hospitals....

[Castro, interrupting] Is this the best white cement we have or....

[Worker, interrupting] This is the best one we have. It is good quality white cement.

[Castro] This is the best one we have. There are some stains there. [indistinct remarks of workers talking simultaneously]

[Worker] We wanted to see how the panel reacts....

[Castro, interrupting] So that you don't have to paint it.

[Worker] So that we do not have to paint the next projects.

[Unidentified reporter] How is this experience going to be used elsewhere? The contingent is planning to join....

[Castro, interrupting] Let me tell you that they are doing the same thing at the Albarran.

[Worker] It is going to be completed by December.

[Castro] Many other projects are doing the same thing. The Blas Roca contingent is building the east-west highway in a year. Not the east-west, up to 100th Street, the portion that was assigned to them. The whole thing could

be paved with asphalt. The whole thing could have been paved with asphalt. But we were more ambitious and wanted to pave it with cement. We had to get equipment for this. We acquired machinery that will arrive at the end of the year. This is why, by the end of the year—three lanes will be paved by the end of the year. Not totally paved, but half of it. But since cement will also go on top, we didn't want to waste asphalt. We are going to pave three lanes with asphalt so we can begin using the highway in December.

[Reporter] Is the fourth bridge ready?

[Castro] The fourth bridge is ready. I can see that you are well informed. We had to start carrying out a political-social operation called the conquering of space.

[Reporter, interrupting] Caballero [not further identified] told me a lot about it.

[Castro] The space over the land. You have heard about it already? The vast majority were happy because they lived in pretty poor conditions and they were provided with new apartments. The residents of the areas next to them were asking if there were any plans for their area, if it was going to be extended to their area. In general, it wasn't very difficult. There were very few people—nobody had to be evicted.

[Unidentified speaker] Only three, only three [repeats himself] offered resistance

[Castro] Three resisted a little when the eviction decree was prepared. What are we going to do? We are not going to stop this enormous project, such an important project, of such social importance. We could not do this.

[Reporter] Twelve operating rooms.

[Castro] Twelve. Frank Pais has—how many does it have? It has 15.

[Reporter] Fifteen.

[Castro] Have you also been there?

[Reporter] At the Frank Pais? Yes.

[Castro] I believe it is going to be completed by the end of this month. That's what they say. [laughter] If not, it will be completed by the beginning of October. [Words indistinct]

[Worker] [Words indistinct] speed and quality confused the marathon with speed. Speed is planned and the marathon is not. The marathon comes as a result of delays [words indistinct] poor quality. Here speed is planned; its organized.

[Reporter] Do you believe that such fast-paced work could hinder quality in any way?

[Castro] What a coincidence, what a coincidence [repeats himself]! Note that this is one of the projects with better quality.

[Reporter] Who has said this?

[Castro] Many people who have seen the project—people from Public Health, Caballero—many people say it is one of the ones with best quality. The Frank Pais is being built rapidly. You know how many millions of years—I say millions to exaggerate a little—it has been under construction. For us 15 years are millions. I was being told a while ago that the project—I was told there, the doctors have told me—is being built with good quality. I believe what causes the quality of a project to deteriorate is not completing it at all because of negligence and indolence. When there is a desire to build rapidly a project for the people, it is not hard to associate this with quality. The worst thing is for construction of a project to take 15 years; by the time it's finished, it's already old.

[Reporter] Even in the minds of the people.

[Castro] In the minds of the people and in the materials also. It also costs much more. I have seen... [changes thought] I may be a lay person but I have visited some of the projects that have been completed and I liked them. I look at details a lot. I look at the tiles individually. I look at the floors and see how the tiles are placed. If I find a stained tile, I say, there is a stained tile and ask: What happened with this tile? I look at the marble. Of course, quality is a very broad concept. You can find red or pink marble [words indistinct] you can find lighter or darker ones. There are times when those shades give beauty to the wall. There are some who [words indistinct] beauty is included in the concept of quality. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Hart in DPRK; Reaffirms Solidarity, Friendship

FL1209140288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Cuba has reaffirmed its total identity of opinions and solidarity with the DPRK and its full support for the efforts made by the country for national reunification and the building of socialism. The Cuban stand was presented by Armando Hart Davalos, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, at a mass rally held at the former imperial capital of Kaesong, which is located at the threshold of the military line dividing Korea in two at the 38th Parallel. Hart said Cuba and Korea are united by very strong bonds, such as love for freedom, socialism, and independence. He then stressed the close friendship ties existing between the leaders of the two countries [words indistinct].

Received by Kim Il-song

FL1209184088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] DPRK President Kim Il-song highlighted today the close friendship ties and identity of opinions shared with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, to whom he sent

warm greetings. Kim Il-song said this when he received Armando Hart, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of culture, who is heading the party and government delegation attending the festivities marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

TV Series on CIA Published in Book Form

FL0909123988 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The book titled "CIA's War Against Cuba" published by the National News Agency [AIN] will be presented tomorrow at 1700 at the AIN gardens in Havana. It was printed at the Soviet NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY print shop and edited by journalists Jose Luis Morera and Rafael Calcines. The book includes photographs supplied by State Security organs and Liborio Noval, Ernesto Calderin, and Jorge Valiente from the newspaper GRANMA.

"CIA's War Against Cuba" was prepared by the AIN with material presented by the television series of the same name, which was broadcast with the cooperation of State Security organs.

The book, which consists of 11 chapters, highlights in its introduction the dedicated work of anonymous men and women and combatants who have infiltrated the CIA, risking their lives to crush the plans of the enemy.

Dominican Republic

Director of Prisons Resigns 'Unexpectedly'

FL0909175588 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0947 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Lic Gregory Castellanos Ruano has unexpectedly resigned as general director of prisons, reportedly to tend to private matters.

Castellanos Ruano sent a message to Attorney General Dr Semiramis Olivo de Pichardo informing her of his resignation. In his letter, Castellanos Ruano says he is resigning as general director of prisons to devote himself to private matters.

Let us remember that Castellanos Ruano had a heated argument with Deputy Hatuey Decamps, secretary general of the Pena Gomez faction of the Dominican Revolutionary Party. The confrontation occurred because of Castellanos Ruano's radical position that the presidential pardon granted to Rafael Flores Estrella be carried out.

Trade Unions Merge, Call on Others To Unite

FL0909165488 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0921 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The General Union of Dominican Workers [UGTD] and the National Confederation of Dominican Workers [CNTD] have announced the merger of the the two bodies so that they can jointly fight for the demands made by the workers of the needier classes in the country.

The announcement was made by trade unionists (Mariano Luperon) of the CNTD and Mateo Valdez [president] of the UGTD. The trade union leaders called on the rest of the trade unions to unite so a single organization grouping all the country's workers can be created.

They said that at times such as those the country is going through, the best thing is for workers to organize as a single man to fight for improved living conditions.

Briefs

Energy 'Crisis' Noted

Blackouts continue to occur in the capital and outages have lasted as long as 11 hours. The energy shortage amounts to 65,000 kilowatts. This is expected to decrease when plants currently under repair become operational. Last week, the energy crisis reached its highest level when the shortage was equal to half the amount of electricity produced by the Dominican Electricity Corporation. [Excerpts] [*FL0909184388 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0929 GMT 9 Sep 88*]

Haiti

Reaction To Attack on St Jean Bosco Church

FL1309140488 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpts] In the news is yesterday's attack on St Jean Bosco Church in Port-au-Prince by an armed group. The attack left 5 dead and at least 70 wounded. Here is Clarens Renois' report:

[Renois] The incomplete balance sheet of the bloody incidents of 11 September 1988 in Port-au-Prince is as follows: 5 dead, more than 70 people wounded, and St Jean Bosco Church burned down. At 0900 yesterday, after [5-second break in reception] certain of them dressed in white were attending the Sunday mass being said by Father Jean Bertrand Aristide when approximately 100 armed individuals wearing red (?T-shirts) and red armbands literally assaulted the church, attacking churchgoers with rocks, clubs, and revolvers and

setting fire to the chapel. The fire destroyed the church and spread to a part of the building housing the school of arts and crafts of St Jean Bosco.

More than 2 hours after the incident began, no direct intervention by the police was observed by the journalists on the scene. Also, eight vehicles in the courtyard of the Salesian priests' building were set on fire yesterday. There are young people among the victims of this 11 September, this black Sunday, but there are also old people not dressed in white, who were attending the mass being said by Father Aristide. According to witnesses, Father Aristide managed to leave the church under the protection of some of the faithful. However, for the time being, we have no precise information on the priest.

Here is the account of a witness, a 17-year-old boy who witnessed the St Jean Bosco massacre yesterday, a massacre which he escaped. According to the young man, only a few people out of the 2,000 churchgoers who were attending the mass were wearing white yesterday. In his statements, this young man says he thinks the church was set on fire purely and simply to eliminate St Jean Bosco.

[Begin recording] [Boy, speaking in Creole] Father Aristide read the Gospel. He made no comments. He finished reading the Gospel and put down the Bible. Then he went on with the Consecration. He was offering the bread and wine to God, and just then, as he was finishing, we heard a volley of rocks, accompanied by gunfire. When he heard the gunfire, Father Aristide said: Don't go outside. Don't run. Keep calm. Don't run. Just then we looked toward the gate and we saw men wearing red armbands, with machetes and knives in their hands....

[Reporter,interrupting] Did you recognize them?

[Boy] Not really, because, you know, when you are running, you can't stop to take a good look, [words indistinct] because they might do you in. They sawed at the gate that opens onto Boulevard Jean-Jacques Dessalines. They sawed at the gate and entered. When they entered, there were about seven vehicles in front. They smashed the windows and began burning the tires. At the same time there were people inside the church who had not yet gone outside, and some of the men entered the church. One guy died right in front of me. He was shot twice in the back. The bullets went through him. He fell right in front of me. He was wearing a white T-shirt, and it turned red on his body. He fell right in front of me.

There was a pregnant woman who was stabbed in the belly with a knife. The woman was holding in her entrails. Another lady caught a bullet in the head. She had not yet died, but I don't know what happened to her later, because we called the firemen and the Red Cross, and nobody showed up. I don't know what happened after I left.

[Reporter] Were you people in the church wearing white clothes?

[Boy] Basically, I would say no. Many people were not wearing white. A few people were wearing white shirts, but I don't think it was particularly to go along with the people who had issued the watchword to wear white. I did see some people wearing white, but I don't think it was because....

[Reporter, interrupting] Why do you think they might have done this?

[Boy] [Passage omitted] You are in Haiti and you are familiar with the current juncture. Now, you know that St Jean Bosco is a place where they help you to see clearly, to see who is robbing you blind, to see who is doing you in. You can see that they are trying to do away with St Jean Bosco, so that it will not exist anymore, so that the liberation the Haitian people are awaiting, are seeking, will not take place. As you know, even in the church, there is a sector that does not accept Father Aristide, that does not help Father Aristide.

So they came this morning and caused havoc just so they could eliminate us. Up to the present, I cannot tell you exactly everything that happened, or give you a complete account, because many people inside the church did not manage to get out, and these guys entered and came all the way inside the church, through a little door that was open. There was nothing the people could do, the poor things!

[Reporter] (?When this happened), what did Father Aristide do?

[Boy] I can tell you that he went outside. I didn't see if he (?got away), because I ran, I was crawling on my stomach. I ran off through the courtyard of the Salesian priests' building and got outside, just so I could save my life. [end recording]

After attacking the churchgoers at St Jean Bosco church, the bandits headed for the headquarters of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party and the headquarters of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party on the Champ de Mars. The headquarters of these parties, respectively headed by Reverend Sylvio Claude and Louis Dejoie, were heavily ransacked by these unidentified armed individuals. The premises of Radio Cacique, located on Rue Bellevue, were also trashed. Moreover, rocks were thrown and shots fired at Radio Soleil late in the afternoon. In connection with the attack on Radio Cacique, we have this statement from a colleague:

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker, in Creole] At approximately 1500, we heard a volley of gunfire and rocks started raining down on the radio station. There were we four reporters and one operator inside: (Roday), (Haile), (James Monroe), and (Frantz Verrier). As soon as we heard this, brother, we fled to save our lives. Thank

God we were able to get away, but the radio was wrecked. At this moment, there is no way we can go back to the radio station to see how much damage was done. But (?as we fled), we heard people saying: It is the same team as Father Aristide. It is the same group of people. It is they who are always bugging people.

That is what we heard them saying. As we were hearing this, we were fleeing to save our lives, because these men were armed. We cannot tell you what kind of weapons they were carrying, or who they are, but they appear to have been the same people who trashed St Jean Bosco in the morning. As we said, we can't tell you how much damage was done to Radio Cacique, because there was a vehicle out front. As we ran, we could hear them trashing the vehicle that was in the radio station's courtyard. They were trying—because we had locked the doors—to break down the doors to get inside. So we don't know if they succeeded in breaking down the doors and getting in, or, at this point, what damage was done. This is all we can tell Radio Metropole at this point. [end recording]

Coming back to the St Jean Bosco massacre, it must be pointed out that there has as yet been no reaction from the political leaders who had expressed support for the campaign in favor of the Constitution. We have, however, noted the statement from Mr Hubert de Ronceray of the MDN, Mobilization for National Development, who says he is deeply moved by these incidents. Hubert de Ronceray also invites the authorities to intervene to guarantee security wherever it may be threatened.

[Begin De Ronceray recording] [Passage omitted] We of the MDN are seeking an explanation for today's problems, because we feel we are missing certain elements, certain data. We cannot understand the reactions we have observed today. [end recording] [passage omitted]

It should also be noted that most of the accounts collected during the heat of the action yesterday say that the attack on St Jean Bosco Church and the churchgoers was led by employees of Port-au-Prince city hall—or at least by people identified by witnesses as being Port-au-Prince city hall employees. According to these witnesses, it is these same individuals who last Wednesday [as heard] threw rocks at the young people who were inside St Jean Bosco Church; it is these same men who were at the head of the group responsible for yesterday's damage, murders, and fire. We contacted the mayor of Port-au-Prince, Eng Frank Romain, who agreed to answer our questions. According to Romain, Father Aristide yesterday reaped what he had sown. He who sows the wind reaps the storms, said Mr Romain repeatedly.

Mayor Romain said, furthermore, that he was in favor of the reinstatement of the Constitution of 1987 abolished by the military government. However, he would like to see this Constitution reinstated with modifications, particularly the parts of the Constitution that contain the seeds of discord.

[Begin recording] [Romain] Even should it be true that city hall employees have participated in this church business, in this business between priests, as I have learned—this business between Aristide and the other priest—I nevertheless do not see how this concerns me. That is why I am surprised to hear you ask me this question. Are you trying to imply that I have something to do with what happened (?today)?

[Reporter] That's not the point, Mr Romain. As the mayor of the capital, I would like to ask you the question, because you are a highly respected, very respectable, figure....

[Romain, interrupting] I am a responsible leader.

[Reporter] As you wish, a responsible leader. I would like....

[Romain, interrupting] I am not an anarchist. I am not someone who preaches violence and who sends people out to die, as Father Aristide has always done. I could not possibly get mixed up in something like this.

[Reporter] Mr Frank Romain, here is the last question I will ask you. Do you have an opinion on what happened? Who do you think is responsible for these incidents?

[Romain] Oh yes, I sure do have an opinion! I certainly do. In my capacity as a leader, I do have an opinion. He who sows the wind reaps the storms. Father Aristide has always preached violence. As a priest, he has preached for people to kill and to do all kinds of things. Now, today, what has just happened to him is perhaps the result. He has reaped what he has sown. You will excuse me, but I will say it again, I was very surprised, very surprised [repeats himself], to hear you ask me a question in connection with this matter. However, if you want my opinion, my opinion is that the problem, what happened today, is a matter between priests. Because you have surely been informed that those red armbands had something written on them—since I myself also know about it. You have surely seen one? No? (?Surely you have.)

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Romain] [Words indistinct] seen an example of this business. It appears to be a matter between priests. That's what it looks like. Thus, if there are city hall people, city hall employees, involved in this thing, it is normal. I cannot stop one of my employees from being in favor of or against Aristide, or from being Catholic or a practitioner of voodoo or a Protestant, you see. So I find that people who form an opinion based only on the fact that certain people have reportedly said they saw people from city hall present are rather frivolous.

[Reporter] OK, one last question, Mr Romain—and I thank you very much for your understanding and your willingness to answer our questions. My last question is

whether you also have an opinion on the call by the political leaders who had asked the population to dress in white on Sunday to show their support for the Constitution of 1987, banned by the military government.

[Romain] Well, my opinion on this is that these political parties have a right to take a stand for or against the Constitution. After all, we are in a democracy, in a full democracy. So, you see, they are entitled to their opinion. I cannot be either for or against their opinion. I think they are within their rights—those who have taken this decision, this decision to ask their partisans to protest. I think it is their right to do so. That is my opinion. As a leader, I myself am in favor of a modification of this Constitution, because [15-minute break in reception]

Government Guarantees Journalists' Protection

FL0909132788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] Haiti's military government, in an effort to improve its human rights image, has promised to protect journalists and guarantee their right to report human rights abuses. The only qualification is that the journalists must be sure what they are publishing is correct information.

A radio reporter recently complained that a collegue was beaten by an Army commander, which prompted the announcement by the Haitian Government.

Carrefour Official on 'Evildoers,' Intimidation

FL0609212488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Text] We have learned that a commotion broke out in Carrefour yesterday morning. According to statements by Carrefour Magistrate (Jean Max Aubourg), it was really dramatic.

Early in the morning, a group of people—he termed them evildoers—overran the building housing the mayor's office. These people, weapons in hand, intimidated the employees. They took the employees hostage. According to (Aubourg), these evildoers subjected many of them to a lot of pressure. He says these people jostled them and then threw them out.

The magistrate, accompanied by Gressier Mayor (Joseph Sablon Jean) (?and leaders) from Carrefour city hall, came to our newsroom here at Radio Nationale to tell us about problems of a political nature that they have all been confronting, on the level of the communes, ever since the chief of state, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, who is the head of the military government, went through the area during his tour of southern Haiti. They say they have been subjected to serious political intimidation and that they have been receiving many anonymous phone calls. They also told us that there is a group of unscrupulous individuals who seem to want to kill them. One of these magistrates, Mr (Sablon), is going to give us more details on this big commotion at Carrefour city hall yesterday morning.

[Begin recording] [(Sablon)] I would like to tell the pertinent authorities—that is, the higher authorities—to take a good look at this. There is a small group out there operating. They are not after jobs. They just want to cause problems for the current government. This is evident. They have been causing trouble in Gressier ever since the president (?returned from) the south. They are causing disorder. But they have not been able to get into city hall. Let me tell you, they cannot. If they try it, they will get what they deserve. But they are causing other problems.

Just wait and see. Next week there will be [words indistinct] that they are going to put out tracts forbidding the opening of schools. But by doing this, it is not the magistrate they are causing problems for. Rather, it is the military government that they are trying to cause problems for. Thus I ask the higher authorities to take a look at this. The problem in Carrefour and Gressier is not exclusive to this commune. Almost all the communes have it. But this commune is too close to Port-au-Prince to be having all these problems.

[Reporter] As regards you yourself in Gressier, if I understand you correctly, they have not yet beleaguered your city hall. This has not yet happened to you. What kind of problems of this nature do you yourself have?

[(Sablon)] Well, there are a few small groups of people who are going around giving a series of young bums in the streets $200, $300, $400 to create disorder.

[Reporter] But have you yourself personally detected them?

[(Sablon)] Yes, I definitely know them. And even the police are aware of it as well. [end recording]

So, we think the authorities are going to do everything possible to shed some light on the situation in Carrefour commune and in Gressier.

Magistrates' Charges Denied

FL0709215688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] A delegation from the commune of Gressier came to our complaints office yesterday to give the lie to a statement made by Gressier commune magistrate (Joseph Jean Sablon) in an interview with one of our reporters. The interview regarded a problem Mr (Sablon) claims has persisted ever since the chief of state, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, president of the military

government, went through the area during a tour of southern Haiti. The magistrate said there had been continuous political intimidation and that he had received many phone calls.

The delegation in question came to the radio station to give the lie to the magistrate's statement. They also reported that the magistrate had said, in connection with the beginning of the school year, that certain people with evil intentions in the Gressier area were making big efforts to boycott the opening of the schools. School is scheduled to begin in October.

The delegation denied outright the truth of the magistrate's statement. We will have you listen to what the delegation said.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We of Gressier don't even see that Gressier has a magistrate. We have no idea why he talked about us. My problem with the magistrate is that I told him I was going to organize a demonstration for Gen Henri Namphy because Gressier had to wake up; because, I said, the entire country is falling into step and demonstrating in support of the president all over the place: Petit Goave, Jacmel, everywhere. Let us demonstrate, too. All the young people agreed with me and said yes. So the demonstration was held. During my demonstration, Magistrate (Sablon) told me that no, there would be no demonstration. While I was demonstrating, I was hit by a bullet. The three measly policemen from the post that he sent were unable to help anybody during that demonstration.

Actually, the sergeant had sent for me and told me that the demonstration was forbidden. Later, they called me—the head of Fort Dimanche, the major at Fort Dimanche, sent word to me to say: Demonstrate in support of the president. I sent my letter to him, to General Regala. And the demonstration went off very well. When the demonstration took place at 1600 all the bigshots and all the civilian authorities were there. The demonstration ended at 1830. Everything ended then.

[Reporter] Well, what is the problem?

[Speaker] Well, Magistrate (Sablon) came to the radio station today to say that when the president passed through on his way back from the south, everyone in Gressier caused disorder and that luckily he had a weapon on him or they would have come and gotten him at city hall. Now, I know there should be an investigation to see if what he says is true, because although the people of Gressier don't have much formal education, they are smart. They are not crazy. [end recording]

So, this is for the magistrate of Gressier, whom this delegation came to rebut. Someone else came to contradict the magistrate of Carrefour, (Jean Max Aubourg). Yesterday afternoon in our newsroom, we received Mr (Jean Claude Chadavoine), the secretary general of the Democratic Progressive Party of Carrefour [Pati Demokrat Progresis Carrefour]. He is also the founder and president of the Committee for the Revival of Carrefour [Komite Relevman Carrefour]. He came to set a few things straight in connection with a statement made by the magistrate of Carrefour to the effect that he has been having a lot of problems recently because of the warm welcome he gave Haitian President Lt Gen Namphy as he passed through Carrefour during his tour of southern Haiti last 8 August. We will have you listen to Mr (Chadavoine's) statement, contradicting Carrefour Magistrate (Jean Max Aubourg).

[Begin recording] [(Chadavoine), speaking in French] This morning, I heard over Radio Nationale that the mayor of Carrefour said the problems he is confronting stem directly from the president having passed through Carrefour on 8 August 1988. This is the same as saying that the population of Carrefour is not in favor of the welcome he gave the president of the Republic.

[Reporter] What makes you think his attitude leads people to believe the population of Carrefour did not like the welcome he gave the president?

[(Chadavoine)] The statement he made this morning over Radio Nationale.

[Reporter] Well, can you tell us, can you report to us, about the work that Mr (Aubourg), Carrefour mayor, has done in the area?

[(Chadavoine)] Well, since he became magistrate, nothing, nothing, and still more nothing has been done so far. This is why the population, indignant over his attitude, has decided to ask the president of the Republic to remove him as mayor of Carrefour. [end recording]

Court Releases Accused Kenscoff 'Inspectors'

FL0809215488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The office of the Department of the Public Prosecutor of the civil court of Port-au-Prince yesterday ordered the release of Etienne Miracle and Delmas Macillon, who are both inspectors assigned to the commune of Kenscoff. They were arrested last Wednesday, 31 August, during a demonstration in support of the current government's policies. These demonstrations were organized by General Namphy's development adviser for that area, Mr Jean Gilbert—the former president of the Provisional Electoral Council of the National Government Council, who was called the Moliere of Haiti on 17 January, the day of the trumped-up elections. Miracle and Macillon were accused of planning to try to kill with machetes approximately 200 participants in that demonstration.

These men were released today when the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor found that the manner in which they had been arrested, jailed, and brought before the Department of the Public Prosecutor did not accord with proper procedure.

Mobile Anticontraband Units Established

FL0809162188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Excerpts] To fight contraband, the military government has just set up six mobile anticontraband units to operate in several parts of the country, such as Petit Goave, Miragoane, Saint-Marc, Gonaives, Port-de-Paix, and Cap Haitien. These mobile units are made up of a representative of the Ministry of Commerce and a representative of the Ministry of Finance, an official from the General Customs Administration, and (?two) policemen recruited from the Haitian Navy and from the 32d company of the Port-au-Prince police. These mobile brigades, which are fully independent, are billeted at the general headquarters of the Haitian Navy in Bizoton under the supervision of a coordinator responsible for them, Colonel Hebert Valmond, who is the commander of the Haitian Navy.

There are also several teams of roving customs agents that cooperate with these anticontraband agents in fighting the smuggling. (Rochnel Charles) interviewed Col Hebert Valmond on this struggle against contraband.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Valmond] Initially, we are going to try to cover these places, because they are the ones with the most activity, but ultimately we will cover all of Haiti.

[(Charles)] Don't you think that in order to get results you will need the cooperation of the teams working for customs?

[Valmond] In fact, we work together, because we have the same objectives. [passage omitted] The final objective of both the mobile anticontraband units and the teams of roving customs agents is to get the taxes paid and have income from customs increase. [passage omitted]

Before I answer your question, there is a point I would like to elucidate. There is a sector engaging in contraband that is trying to (?make) the population believe the mobile units come to the area to.... [changes thought] Sometimes they even tell people that these men have come to shut down the ports, that we have come to block business in the area. That is not our objective. Anyone who analyzes things in depth will be able to see all the nefarious effects of contraband. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Jamaica

Public Broadcasting Corporation Launched

FL0709235088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2210 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 7, CANA—The new company which the government expects to produce quality local material for the television channel to be retained after divestment of the state-owned Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC) was launched here Tuesday, the official JAMPRESS news agency reported. Called the Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica (PB-J), it will show its first pilot programme Sunday over JBC channels, JAMPRESS said.

The JBC currently operates Jamaica's only television station, AM and FM radio channels, as well as three regional radio stations—two of which have been closed.

Under the planned divestment most of these will be sold off and licenses granted for two television stations. However, the government plans to retain the JBC's FM radio service and a television channel under a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) to provide educational programmes with emphasis on public affairs, culture and sports.

JAMPRESS said that it will be PB-J that will produce the programmes for the television channel. PB-J is housed at and will use the technical facilities of the Creative and Production Training Centre (CPTC), a government-owned, modern television production house that already produces its own programmes and provides facilities for Jamaica Information Service—JIS-TV. JBC also uses its technical expertise.

JAMPRESS said that PB-J executive director is Carey Robinson, the former JBC general manager who was seconded to the prime minister's office to oversee the development of PBS. PB-J will initially broadcast for 3 ½ hours weekly, gradually increasing its output.

JAMPRESS quoted Robinson as telling a meeting of advertising agencies excutives and related officials that the Caribbean had come out of "political colonialism only to fall into media colonialism where Rambo and Trinity are held up as heroes." The vast improvement and availability of communication technology was leading to large numbers being "seduced away from the reality of Caribbean life," Robinson said.

This could not be stopped and the flow of communication cut off, Robinson said. But the effects could be countered through the increasing development of interesting and attractively packaged programmes on Jamaican and Caribbean experiences. He appealed for the kind of support that will help to make this possible.

PRI Denounces 'Radical Groups' in Opposition
PA1009212088 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] In a press release, the PRI noted that developments in the Chamber of Deputies once again demonstrate the existence of radical groups within the opposition sectors. It noted that these groups seek to attain power through acts of provocation, unrest, and destabilization. The PRI affirmed that these sectors are not interested in a debate but seek to weaken the government and to degrade the republic. The PRI further stressed that faced with people who seek to place the nation on the path toward violence with no turning back, it will unyieldingly defend law and order and democracy.

Opposition Protests Salinas Victory Declaration
PA1009232488 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Text] Mexican opposition parties held a demonstration yesterday afternoon that proceeded from Juarez municipality to the Chamber of Deputies. Among those heading the demonstration were Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, Heberto Castillo, Porfirio Munoz Ledo, and others. Outside the San Lazaro Legislative Palace, they held a rally to protest the victory of Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

FDN Spokesman Outlines Future Actions
PA1209183588 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 4 Sep 88 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Rogelio Hernandez]

[Excerpt] Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, authorized spokesman of the pro-Cardenas Front, said yesterday that the National Democratic Front [FDN], especially the PPS [Popular Socialist Party], will approach all labor organizations to request their help in starting a dialogue among political forces and stop the provocations that some people, such as Fidel Velasquez, are trying to promote.

"We have already said it and repeat it for whomever wishes to hear it: We are willing to talk anywhere and at any time. Violence benefits no one because we would not know how to stop it. However, dialogue does not mean submission," the deputy said in reply to charges against him about incidents that occurred at the Legislative Palace on the day of the president's state of the nation report.

"What damage to the institutions? What provocation? Let the captives of the single-minded [monocorde] policy not exaggerate," Ortiz Mendoza, spokesman for the six organizations of the FDN, said.

"The only thing that is being changed against their will is a long-standing unrepublican custom of a single party system, which has made the legislative branch subservient," he said.

"I ask those who protest more to defend their bonuses and sinecures rather than the country and the needs of the people: Would it not have been a beautiful chapter, or recognition, of pluralism and democracy, which the people asked for with their votes, if they had answered the questions?"

"Would it not have been altruistic, with the whole nation applauding? However, they opted for the only thing they know: Closed minds and authoritarian positions."

Ortiz Mendoza reviewed the opinions of the secretaries of state, governors, and other PRI members given to explain the FDN actions on 1 September. Just before leaving for Morelos to preside over mass ceremonies, he revealed part of the FDN plans.

"We have already said it and repeat it for whomever wants to hear it: We are willing to talk with anyone anywhere.

"We know it is the only way to prevent the violence that benefits no one because we would not know how to stop it, or when it would end. However, they are creating the conjectures."

Ortiz Mendoza, who is also parliamentary coordinator of the PPS, added that as a demonstration of this willingness, we submitted a proposal to the Chamber of Deputies, and my party is drafting another to all of the country's labor organizations.

He explained that no later than next Monday they would ask the large industrial unions and federations to help start a dialogue among the different political forces.

However, he explained that for them dialogue must be conducted as equals and with specific criteria. We will not accept submission; we have a responsibility to the Mexican people, the majority of whom voted for Cardenas and for change, he said.

He said they have named 17 members of FDN factions to analyze the sixth government report and reply to each one of the president's assertions that "are untrue." [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Vice President on Regional Peace, Nicaragua

PA1309002988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Interview with Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo by Nicaraguan reporters Silvio Mora of EL NUEVO DIARIO and Abraham Quijano of Radio Sandino at the Holiday Inn in San Jose; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Many people are saying the Esquipulas agreement is dead. What do you think about that?

[Dengo] No, it is not dead. What I always say is that the five Central American presidents made many efforts—huge efforts, in my opinion—to meet in Esquipulas, to reach an agreement, and to sign a document acceptable to all. At the beginning there was much skepticism among the presidents themselves about the possibility of reaching an agreement, but they succeeded. In my opinion, that agreement created great optimism that the countries involved would implement the agreements and comply with them.

I am realistic, though, and realize it is more difficult to accomplish goals than to set them. In trying to achieve the Esquipulas agreement's goal of ending conflicts by complying with specific measures—ranging from a cease-fire to reconciliation, an amnesty, and all that—the countries involved have found that this process is more difficult to accomplish than they had thought.

This did not come as a surprise to me. What is important for the presidents to do now is to come up with new ideas that would give a boost to their efforts. Efforts to create a Central American parliament, a new development strategy, and a new integration process are essential, but it would be very difficult to achieve these goals if they are not preceded by political stability and peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Please give an honest answer to this question: Do you believe Nicaragua is an obstacle to a true and lasting peace in Central America?

[Dengo] Yes, honestly. Yes, in a sense. Somebody asked me if I thought Nicaragua is to blame for all of Central America's problems. Definitely not. However, Nicaragua's economic and political system adds a new element to Central America's problems. The interesting part is that Nicaragua does not hide this new element, and therefore Managua is providing room for discussions with other countries.

We have to realize that the Nicaraguan situation and the Nicaraguan war are elements that have been added to the many unresolved and worsening problems of Central America. There is no doubt about this. I have said this before.

[Reporter] Nicaragua is facing an aggression. Even in Costa Rica there are people waging war on Nicaragua. There are even radio stations waging this aggression. Nicaragua has to find ways to defend itself.

[Dengo] We are constantly investigating and trying to arrest people involved in activities against Nicaragua. It is not easy because of the limitations of our security forces. The serious part is that these people are now mixed with similar elements, the drug traffickers. I am not saying they are the same thing. However, the Costa Rican authorities are more committed to the solution of drug trafficking problems than to the solution of other problems. I do admit that we have not been able to control this problem as well as we wish we could. However, our situation is neither the same as nor comparable to the situation in Honduras.

[Reporter] What is keeping the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly from ratifying the treaty on the Central American parliament?

[Dengo] The legislative backlog and the Legislative Assembly's slowness. The delay has nothing to do with the Central American parliament but with the backlog and the complex procedures of the Legislative Assembly. Of course, there are deputies who are opposed to it, but I believe the majority is not opposed to the Central American parliament.

[Reporter] Will the vice presidents' meeting begin tomorrow or Monday?

[Dengo] On Monday. It will take place on Monday and Tuesday.

[Reporter] What is the agenda?

[Dengo] The task is to complete coordination on technical cooperation programs with the United Nations and Europe. There are a couple of other points, but this is the main objective.

El Salvador

Rey Prendes Threatens To Form New Party

PA1209222288 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 12 Sep 88 pp 11, 61

[Excerpts] In light of the failed negotiations between Fidel Chavez Mena and Adolfo Rey Prendes—the leaders of the two Christian Democratic factions who are seeking the presidential nomination—Adolfo Rey Prendes announced that he will form a new political party with the support he currently has from the party's rank and file.

It has been said that the only way to prevent him from carrying out his threat would be for the Chavez Mena faction to accept a Rey Prendes supporter as vice presidential candidate. However, it has been charged that the Chavez Mena faction is obstinately maintaining the position that it will have its own, as yet undisclosed, ticket.

Rey Prendes, who originally won the presidential nomination in a convention that was subsequently disavowed by the Chavez Mena faction, made the threat halfway through a speech to supporters who yesterday morning attended what was described as the "authentic Christian Democratic national convention" in a San Salvador movie theater. The participants also elected the members of the political committee for 1988-1990 and the members of the executive committee for that same period.

Rey Prendes made the dramatic announcement, which was received with heavy applause and shouts from his supporters, after recounting the origin, development, and crisis of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC). [passage omitted]

Despite his charges, Rey Prendes said that as a politician, he would not dismiss the possibility of holding a dialogue with his adversaries within the PDC, and that therefore he is proposing a way to end the division. He said that "if the party's problems are solved and if we are permitted to elect the vice presidential candidate, we would be willing to support Dr Chavez Mena as presidential candidate."

The 1988-1990 political committee members were elected by Rey Prendes' followers during their national convention. They are: Adolfo Rey Prendes, Dolores Eduviges Henriquez, Guillermo Guevara Lacayo, Armando Chavarria, Maria Judith de Torres, Ruth de Sandoval, Pedro Hernandez, Rafael Pleitez Menendez, Mauricio Mazier Andino, and Milagro Azcunaga de Melendez. [passage omitted]

Zamora, Ungo Comment on Elections, Violence
PA1209151088 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1249 GMT 11 Sep 88

[By Angus Macswan]

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Sep (REUTER)—Ruben Zamora, seated in his party's headquarters in downtown El Salvador, wears a bulletproof vest and slowly tears open a pack of cigarettes as he speaks.

Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda, commander of the 1st Brigade with jurisdiction over the capital, has a blackboard in the barracks where he has labeled Zamora and his Social Democrat companero Guillermo Ungo as "terrorist personalities."

A progovernment labor leader advised them in an interview with a newspaper that it would be wise on their part to visit towns in war-torn areas during their electoral campaign for the March 1989 presidential elections.

To further complicate matters, the guerrillas of the FMLN, which is formally allied with the FDR headed by Ungo and Zamora, killed a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] mayor in Morazan on 14 August.

With this backdrop, Zamora and Ungo plan a campaign that will offer the Salvadorans a leftist option for the first time in the five elections held since the civil war broke out in El Salvador.

The war has entered its 9th year and has already claimed some 65,000 victims.

"The coming elections will not solve the basic problems of our society," Zamora stated. "The point in our participating does not [words indistinct] the vote but to promote a political solution to the conflict."

Zamora and Ungo returned to El Salvador in November. They went into exile in 1982 when the right wing and death squads killed thousands of leftist politicians and supporters.

Ruben Zamora's brother Mario and six FDR leaders were killed in a single night and were some of the victims of that era. The presence of Ungo and Zamora in the country is at the same time a sign that the situation has changed and may determine how real or superficial those changes are.

Last year, the political killings staged by the Army, the right wing, and the guerrillas increased.

"The conditions are perfectly ripe for us to participate, but we believe we can improve them through our struggle," Ungo stated.

Both Zamora and Ungo claim that since the war and repression have continued, the elections are not a real exercise in democracy but part of a counterinsurgency plan directed by the United States to legitimize the government and isolate the left.

But they say that none of the parties can win the war militarily; therefore, any opening for a solution must be sought.

They also propose a program of socioeconomic measures to respond to the basic needs of the poverty stricken, who represent the majority in this country of 5.5 million inhabitants.

Since his return, Both Ungo and Zamora have appeared regularly on television. In fact, there was even a debate between Zamora and right-wing leader Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa. They agreed that the United States is ruling the country through the PDC.

The contacts with the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador have been harsh. Zamora and the then Ambassador Edwin Corr had a bitter discussion during a private breakfast, according to diplomatic sources.

"Zamora does not know the meaning of democracy," a U.S. Embassy official said after the leftists decided not to participate in the legislative elections held in March 1988.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte does not know the meaning of democracy either, according to Ungo and Zamora. They call him a "traitor" who turned his back on their ideals. They claim that it is their own struggle that has permitted a political opening. Zamora believes that his movement is tolerated but that it will not be allowed to expand.

Although he is concerned with the thought that a right-wing victory could bring about an even fiercer repression, he and Ungo see state-sponsored violence as the greatest threat.

"The killings (by the death squads) were a shared responsibility. Now they are more selective. The tools are still in the hands of the military," Ungo said.

Without the money or strength of the PDC or the extreme right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), they do not expect victory overnight. Zamora says he would be happy to garner more than 10 percent of the vote.

Ungo and Zamora have linked their two parties with a third smaller one to form the Democratic Merger, which will soon announce its plans for the presidential race.

However, they continue to be president and vice president of the FDR, which during their exile acted as the political and diplomatic branch of the FMLN. They have rejected the government's demands that they break their alliance with the guerrillas. The politicians say that their relationship with the FMLN is strong, despite all their differences, particularly in regard to the tactics taught to civilians, such as sabotage and the use of mines.

Zamora says that the FMLN and FDR are autonomous groups, one military and the other political, who share similar goals. In press communiques, the government and the Army hold the politicians responsible for the guerrilla actions and sometimes mention Ungo and Zamora in paid advertisements in the newspapers.

The right wing and some Army factions consider the participation of the Democratic Merger in the presidential elections as nothing more than a scheme of the guerrillas.

The decision has created some tension in the alliance. The FMLN leadership has supported the movement, saying that it is an extension of the struggle.

However, Commander Leon Gonzalez announced last week that the guerrillas will begin military actions during the electoral period. This is something that even Zamora has had difficulty explaining.

THe FMLN justifies the killings of government and right-wing officials as part of the war effort, a logic that places the man wearing a bulletproof vest in an uncomfortable position.

Guatemala

Vice President on Esquipulas Compliance

PA1209214488 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Interview with Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle by Nicaraguan reporters Silvio Mora of EL NUEVO DIARIO, Roberto Gonzalez of La Voz de Nicaragua, Oswaldo Bonilla of UPI, and Abraham Quijano Macanche of Radio Sandino in San Jose, Costa Rica, "over the weekend"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] What is your analysis of Esquipulas compliance?

[Carpio] Well, I believe that Esquipulas II, as you have heard me say with full conviction and sincerity, is a gentleman's agreement that everyone must make efforts to comply with. I realize that conditions are not the same in every country, that in each country there are different political conditions, but if Central America is now united in its conviction to work together and to seek progress, then I feel that we have progressed in some ways, even though it seems at times as if we are taking one step forward and two backward.

In this regard, I believe that all of us have to improve the level of our compliance. For example, I would like to see a dialogue resumed in Nicaragua so that it can recoup the progress that it had made before. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua has made progress, but, in other areas, it has lagged behind somewhat. I believe that in some respects Guatemala has also faltered a bit in the process of democratization, which we have now resumed. In El Salvador, there are also problems with the Reconciliation Commission, and I believe that there have also been problems in Honduras. I have never liked to point a finger, because circumstances arise and are overcome.

The important thing is for there to be an overriding interest that allows those circumstances to lead to a common focal point. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Why was the Guatemalan Government initially willing to have the contras release 66 so-called EPS prisoners of war in Guatemala—and the Nicaraguan Government even sent a letter with a list—and then Guatemala reneged, which cut off the dialogue?

[Carpio] We are going back to the same thing again. You are mentioning circumstantial problems as if they were obstacles to a Central American peace process. I believe that I should not comment on the circumstantial problems that emerge, because they are the product of the tension existing in Central America. If we were to find a proper forum to discuss these matters, then these incidents would not recur, because we would understand each other. The problem is that we do not understand each other. We understand each other better than we did 2 years ago, but, in my sincere opinion, we should establish a forum and make it a conciliatory mechanism, and then the things that you are mentioning would not happen again. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Was there or was there not such a letter from the Nicaraguan Government to the Guatemalan Government?

[Carpio] I am not familiar with the letter to which you refer. I have not seen that letter. You tell me that it existed; I have not seen it.

[Reporter] The United States wants a dialogue with Central America without Nicaragua's participation. Do you not think that this would create increased tension?

[Carpio] That is why I have maintained everywhere in the world that Central America comprises five countries. It is impossible to speak of a Central America with four, three, or two countries. One has to speak of five countries. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] It seems as if Esquipulas had been devised solely to be implemented by Nicaragua.

[Carpio] I believe that it was made for everyone, but these things have to be discussed among ourselves.

[Reporter] Why is it not complied with by everybody, then?

[Carpio] In a way, you would also have to ask why Nicaragua does not comply with it. The problem is...

[Reporter, interrupting] How is Nicaragua not complying?

[Carpio] I repeat: I am not accusing anyone. I want to be constructive, not destructive. If I begin to say who does and who does not comply, I would be destroying the process. I do not want to destroy the process. I want to be constructive, not destructive. I see Central America as a single entity. To me, that is a sine qua non. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is your government's opinion of the meeting and dialogue between the Guatemalan guerrilla leaders and the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican presidents?

[Carpio] Well, look, I believe... [changes thought] Remember that these are democratic countries, and anybody can receive anyone he likes. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Foreign Ministry Reports 9 Sep EPS Attack

PA1209203788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1916 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Foreign Ministry today reported that EPS troops attacked Honduran military positions on 9 September with small-arms fire and large caliber mortars, wounding one Honduran soldier.

An official spokesman said that the Honduran Government, through its Foreign Ministry, today will send a protest note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto over the armed attacks on Cerro Pelon, La Campana, Quebrada de Oro, Tapulchin, and other towns in the eastern region bordering Nicaragua.

It was not reported whether the Sandinist troops entered Honduran territory. The source said only that the Nicaraguan Army used as a pretext for the attack the argument that it was chasing "contras," who are trying to overthrow the government headed by Daniel Ortega.

There are approximately 12,000 contras in the eastern El Paraiso Department. According to statements made by residents of the area, the contras began crossing into Honduras 2 months ago in search of food, clothing, medicine, and military equipment.

It is believed that there are 25,000 Nicaraguans, armed men and their families, in El Paraiso Department.

The Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa has not commented on the EPS attacks, which the Honduran Foreign Ministry has denounced based on reports received from the Armed Forces.

In eastern Honduras, the "contras" are receiving $50 million in "humanitarian aid" recently approved by the United States at the request of President Ronald Reagan.

Nicaragua

Contras Reject Proposal for Guatemala Meeting

PA1309025688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Miami, 12 Sep (EFE)—Anti-Sandinist leader Adolfo Calero today rejected a new proposal by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to resume contacts in Managua, because "absolutely nothing is achieved at those meetings, except for enduring Sandinist repression."

Ortega had proposed a preparatory meeting in Guatemala between Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) delegates to clarify the reasons why the insurgents do not want to hold talks in Managua.

Calero reiterated in a press statement released by RN spokesman Jorge Rosales that "the Sandinist regime wanted to continue treating us as prisoners there, just as it treats the opposition."

He insisted that a prior meeting in Guatemala is not necessary to discuss democratization in Nicaragua, the release of thousands of political prisoners, or to discuss how necessary it is for "the Sandinists to comply, once and for all, with the Esquipulas II peace plan."

Instead, Calero—one of the seven members of the RN Directorate—proposed a meeting in Guatemala with Ortega to draw up a timetable for the implementation of the democratic reforms that Nicaragua needs and to discuss "Nicaragua's salvation."

He described Ortega's proposal as "one more trick" to divert the attention of the U.S. Congress when it is about to make a final decision on a contra aid plan. A discussion of this plan was postponed in August. [passage omitted]

Obando Says Contra Talks Possible in Sep, Oct

PA1009172288 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1637 GMT 10 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Managua, 10 Sep (DPA)—Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo announced today in Managua that the talks between the Sandinist government and the Nicaraguan Resistance (contras) to end the 8-year-old war plaguing Nicaragua could resume in the coming weeks. Obando returned this morning to Managua after participating—along with other Nicaraguan bishops—in a meeting with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, and meeting in Miami, Florida, with leaders of the Resistance.

Obando said that the negotiations for a cease-fire could begin again in late September or early October, but he did not give details on his talks with the anti-Sandinist leaders.

For his part, President Daniel Ortega said he discussed with Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias the prospects of continuing the talks with the "contras," as well as the setting of the date for a meeting of Central American presidents. [passage omitted]

Press reports in Managua indicate that the "contras" are willing to resume the dialogue, although not in Nicaragua. Since last June, when the Sandinist government and "contra" delegations interrupted their cease-fire negotiations in Managua, the rebels have announced their desire to have the meeting held elsewhere.

Over the past 3 months, the majority of the anti-Sandinist forces have left Nicaraguan territory and have established themselves in camps in Honduras. They have criticized the lack of military assistance on the part of the United States. [passage omitted]

Honduran Charges of 9 Sep EPS Attack Denied

PA1209221488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2131 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Managua, 12 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today claimed that the report about a 9 September EPS attack on Honduran towns—as charged by a Honduran military spokesman—is "false."

A Nicaraguan military spokesman said to ACAN-EFE that, quite to the contrary, the Honduran Army "harassed" EPS positions on 10 September.

The source reported that the attacks with rifle fire and 81-mm mortars took place in a border area within the 2d Military Region, comprising Chinandega and Leon Departments, located in northwestern Nicaragua.

The Defense Ministry spokesman said that the "harassment" resulted in no casualties or damage but that the Nicaraguan Army considers these attacks as "provocations."

This was how the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reacted after the Honduran Foreign Secretariat announced today that EPS troops attacked Honduran military positions on 9 September with rifle and mortar fire, wounding one Honduran soldier.

An official spokesman said in Tegucigalpa that the Honduran Government would issue a protest note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman for the armed attacks on Cerro Pelon, La Campana, Quebrada de Oro, Tapulchin, and other towns near the eastern border.

The military source in Managua also asserted that the Defense Ministry will deliver a bulletin to the news media within the next few hours providing details of the Honduran troops' "provocations" against this country's military.

Contras Killed; Honduran 'Provocations' Reported
PA1309040088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Sep 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry reports that nine mercenaries who were involved in aggressive actions against the EPS in various parts of the country have been killed. It also reports that the Honduran Army has carried out four provocations against Nicaraguan towns in the Departments of Madrid, Nueva Segovia, and Chinandega.

Ramirez Meets Madrigal, Comments on Talks
PA1209214988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1945 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado said today that Nicaragua is strictly implementing the Esquipulas II agreements. Ramirez Mercado met with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto and said that our country is willing to renew talks with the contras. Ramirez is scheduled to meet with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias this evening.

The Nicaraguan vice president said that Nicaragua is willing to participate in a Central American presidential summit in the next few weeks. Ramirez Mercardo is attending a meeting of Central American vice presidents that began today in San Jose to analyze the Central American parliament proposal.

D'Escoto Asks Nonaligned To Support Peace
PA1209003288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today urged the Nonaligned Movement to continue giving its full support to the noble effort to find a peaceful settlement to Central American problems for the sake of peace based on the people's inalienable rights. D'Escoto said that Nicaragua will continue to insist on the need for the Contadora and Support Groups to play an active role in the search for lasting peace in Central America.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister hailed the Esquipulas II agreements as bringing hope to strife-torn Central America. The agreements also clearly show the world that tensions in the region are artificial in that they are caused by U.S. intervention. [passage omitted]

Comparison of Ortega Peasants' Day Address

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 6 September carries a 7,500-word version of President Daniel Ortega's speech during a "Face the People Program" to members of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, UNAG, at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua on 3 September. The BARRICADA version has been compared with the Managua Domestic Service Spanish version published in the 6 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 16, column two, revealing the following variations:

First paragraph, from beginning of line one, reads: [Text] A few days ago, I met with women comrades from Central America, Panama, and Belize who were here, and they asked me if cooperatives benefited... (supplying passage)

Page 18, column one, last paragraph, from line sixteen, reads: ...actions very carefully. [new graf]

However, injustice has... (picking up line one of first full paragraph in column two, page 18, deleting sentences)

Page 19, column one, second full paragraph, from line seven, reads: ...sector has diminished. [new graf]

In these production... (picking up line one of third full paragraph in same column, same page, deleting sentences)

Same page, same column, third full paragraph, from line nineteen, reads: ...and the war. [new graf]

It is also... (picking up line six of second full paragraph in column two, page 19, deleting passages)

Page 20, column two, last paragraph, from line two, reads: ...and services here. For example, the Nicaraguan Institute... (providing variant wording)

Same paragraph, from line eight, reads: ...in our budget. [new graf]

As I said,... (picking up first line of first paragraph in column one, page 21, deleting passage)

Page 21, column two, second full paragraph, from line one, reads: It means ECODEPA [expansion unknown] should review its... (changing acronym and adding editorial note, substituting ECODEPA for CODEPA throughout item)

Same page, same column, last paragraph, from line two, reads: ...because the cooperative is rich should not fool... (clearing queried words)

Page 22, column one, second full paragraph, from line ten, reads: ...of the product, which it then sells to the peasants. Perhaps... (providing indistinct words)

Same page, same column, third full paragraph, from last line, reads: ...purchase a thing. [new graf]

People could not buy anything. Therefore, what should... (picking up first line of fourth full and last graf of column; providing variant wording, clearing indistinct words)

Same page, same column, same graf, from line fourteen, reads: ...have good land, he must try to cultivate other kinds of products. Those who have... (providing variant wording, clearing indistinct words)

Same page, column two, partial paragraph at top of column, from line two, reads: ...about profitability and about the use of electricity. Thus, if before... (providing indistinct words)

Same page, same column, first full paragraph, from line sixteen, reads: ...at this table. [new graf]

Comrades, the important... (picking up first line of second full paragraph in column two, deleting passages)

Ortega Greets Bulgaria's Zhivkov on Anniversary

PA1209032088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Sep 88 p 5

[Letter from President Daniel Ortega to Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria—dated 9 September]

[Text] Dear Comrade Zhivkov:

Allow me on behalf of the FSLN, the Nicaraguan Government, and the Nicaraguan people to congratulate the Bulgarian Communist Party, the government and people of Bulgaria, and you personally on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the people's victory on 9 September 1944, when the fighting forces of the Bulgarian people and the Soviet Army overthrew the fascist forces, which led to the construction of a socialist society, for which your country's finest sons had struggled since the 19th century.

The Bulgarian victory at that time broadly strengthened European democratic and progressive forces and permitted the development of the internationalist solidarity in the spirit of Jorge Dimitrov and those who with him forged the new revolutionary and peace-loving Bulgaria.

The Nicaraguan people, who regard Bulgaria as a fraternal and friendly country, are more than happy to congratulate you on this new anniversary and to wish Bulgarian workers, leaders, and all members of the Communist Party new and greater successes in building the new society and in strengthening the renewal process under way in Bulgaria.

Rest assured, Comrade Zhivkov, that Nicaraguan workers—who unflinchingly defend the revolution in the face of the Reagan administration's economic, political, and military aggression—will firmly maintain the struggle for peace and national independence, thereby strengthening the friendly and mutual solidarity that exists between our peoples, parties, and governments.

Fraternally, Daniel Ortega Saavedra
Managua, 9 September 1988

Briefs

New COSEP President

Gilberto Cuadra, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Industry, today was elected president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP. He replaces Enrique Bolanos. [Summary] [*PA1109014388 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 7 Sep 88*]

Panama

Ritter Criticizes U.S. at Nonaligned Meeting

PA1209154388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 9 Sep 88 pp 1, 2, 9

[Speech by Foreign Minister Jorge E. Ritter at the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 8 September]

[Text] Mr President:

The Panamanian delegation is grateful for your kind attention and requests that you extend our warm and brotherly greetings to all Cypriots. Our two countries are joined by ties of friendship and our links in the Nonaligned Movement. Cyprus and Panama also share the struggle against the presence of foreign troops, which is detrimental to independence and sovereignty.

I reaffirm our invariable support of the Cypriot cause and state that the Panamanian delegation will gladly contribute to the efforts made in this ministerial conference that is expertly and wisely led by Your Excellency. We hope that at this conference our movement is able to make positive advances to attain the goals and aspirations that we all share.

In the past months we have certainly witnessed important events that promote the attainment of peace and harmony in the world. These events mark a route that our nations believe the world should take.

The progress made by the U.S. and Soviet Governments concerning nuclear weapons reduction, the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the cease-fire agreement between Iran and Iraq, the subsequent talks to end hostilities between those two members of our movement, and the steps taken toward the fulfillment of the UN resolutions on southern Africa are recent signs of the turn the world seems to be taking. The world is turning against war as a means to settle disagreements, and against the use of military force to subjugate other peoples.

The number of peoples movements that oppose all forms of foreign military presence is increasing, as is the awareness of the need to demilitarize the world, which is what the entire world is demanding.

The encouraging signs I am referring to, however, must not lead us to stop our struggle and only express satisfaction and pleasure. On the contrary, those signs must incite and encourage us to redouble our efforts to consolidate the progress we have made. Those efforts must also stop the appearance of new methods, strategies, and weapons for domination.

Those new strategies are a reality that make the small countries of the world, which lack military, financial, and industrial power, foresee a future filled with threatening shadows. A detente deprived of a clear intention to demilitarize the world and a true will for peace only releases greater material resources and concentrates talent to create those new strategies of subjugation and exploitation.

Mr President, what Panama has been denouncing is precisely what the United States has been testing. It has been testing a new strategy to violate my country's independence and sovereignty, to disregard the Torrijos-Carter treaties with impunity, and consequently destroy the Panamanian people's will for liberation and establish an outpost of continental domination in the vital, geographic artery of Latin America. At the summit in Harare, Panama denounced the existence of a new weapon covertly used against Panamanian independence and warned that it was a threat to all nations. At present, international legal order has been violated in Panama through official and open actions of imperialist arrogance.

Eleven years ago yesterday, Panama and the United States signed a treaty, which is an example of what negotiations can achieve. That treaty, which is in effect until 31 December 1999, when the last remaining U.S. troops will leave Panamanian territory, should have been implemented with the same principles of good faith in which it was signed.

Since their signing, those treaties have been violated dozens of times. At the present time, however, what the United States wants is to replace the Panamanian Government with a docile regime that will let the United States maintain its military presence in Panama beyond the agreed upon date.

It seems that to attain that goal, the United States has no scruples or limits for its abuses and brutal actions. Information has been manipulated, reality has been disguised, and actions have been distorted to destabilize Panama and degrade its image abroad. Discord within Panamanian society has been promoted. The U.S. Congress and public opinion are being prepared for the current criminal and merciless aggression against our country. Latin American and world public opinion have been prepared to justify or at least tolerate that outrageous abuse. "The curtain of information" that prepared and now supports the aggression against Panama has ridiculous and grotesque, if not tragic, characteristics.

Now it is not only—like President Reagan cynically told the U.S. Congress—that Panama is "an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States' foreign policy, security, and economy," but also that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] are humiliating and offending the relatives and soldiers of the world's most powerful army through excesses that only a sick mind can create and that only an idiot can believe. Those claims are used to whet the U.S. people's appetite for war in order to justify the condemnable use of armed repression. The Panamanian people and government and the FDP have responded firmly, responsibly, prudently, with dignity and humor, but without offenses to that slanderous campaign. We have not made hostile statements or carried out provocative acts. The display of weapons, which everybody can see, is done by the U.S. Army during the military maneuvers it is illegaly conducting in violation of Panamanian territory and airspace. In these disastrous surroundings, Panama is a besieged country. Its government is pursued and harassed on all fronts, and my country's name is used for political gain in the U.S. election campaign.

The devastating effects of the economic measures—which the international community has rejected—were reduced only by the unbreakable will of a country that struggles for its independence and that heroically refuses to surrender. The Panamanian economy has deteriorated to a great extent. That deterioration prevents the Panamanian Government from fulfilling its foreign debt obligations and its people's basic needs. We had to add the [United States'] unprecedented, base aggression to the already critical situation that Panama—like all other developing countries—is experiencing because of unfair exchange relations, a debt that imposes intolerable limits, and the people's increasing demands.

I hope you, distinguished colleagues and delegates, understand that the Panamanian situation must be alarming for all countries that believe their security is protected by international laws and is not subjected to the hegemonic whims of those who have assumed the right to decide why, how, when, and who rules the destinies of other countries.

Mr President, the Panamanian people's current struggle reveals very serious threats to world peace and the peaceful coexistence of nations. It is not merely another case among the many that still exist. It is not merely the case of a small country attacked by an imperialist power. Panama is living testimony of a new form of aggression and conquest.

Violations and uncertainty have clouded the ceremony during which 11 years ago—through the most solemn instruments of settlement among nations—Panama

guaranteed its full independence by setting a date for the delivery of the canal and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panamanian territory.

Delegates, you should decide on the future of international agreements if the United States decides to deny the agreements signed with Panama, although it cynically asserts it is abiding by them. Halfway through the final phase of the implementation of the treaties, Panamanians have witnessed the use of a strategy of subjugation, which resorts to economic terrorism and financial piracy to destroy long-awaited Panamanian national liberation.

I decided to discuss the Panamanian situation instead of discussing the situation of the member-countries of this movement, because it is a way to reiterate—through its own cause—its solidarity with the aspirations of each of your peoples. Convinced that certain principles and rights, which deal with the survival of nations as such, are at stake in the Panamanian people's struggle, I trust that the Nonaligned Movement member-countries understand to what extent their support would also be a step toward their own defense. It would be dangerous for everybody for the evil procedures and cunning weapons directed against Panama to prevail with impunity.

To conclude, I want to add that Panama's battle for the fulfillment of the Panama Canal Treaties is crucial in our struggle for the disappearance of all colonialist regimes. Let us join efforts so that by the year 2000 not one U.S. soldier remains in Panamanian territory and no foreign military presence diminishes the dignity of any country.

Envoy to Cuba on U.S. Treaty 'Violations'
PA0909235688 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Sep 88

[Interview with Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Orestes Nieto by Ezequiel Perez Martin in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Perez] The Torrijos-Carter canal treaties were signed 11 years ago on 7 September. We are also a little more than 11 years away from the canal being completely turned over to the Panamanian people. Since the signing of the historic agreements, U.S. interference against the Panamanian people has also increased. We have with us today at Radio Havana Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba Manuel Orestes Nieto. How is the current situation in your country linked to the approaching fulfillment of these agreements in the year 2000?

[Nieto] First of all, thank you for this interview. We are about to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the Panama Canal Treaties, known as the Torrijos-Carter treaties, which are sanctioned by international law. They were signed by President Jimmy Carter and General Omar Torrijos, Panamanian head of state. The agreements represented a step forward with regard to our former colonial status. In reality, the Panama Canal Treaties are a decolonialization tool. The treaties destroyed the concept of perpetuity that had existed in the old 1903 treaty and replaced it with an expiration date.

They were signed 11 years ago so that on 31 December 1999, the colonial structure installed on the banks of the canal would be totally dismantled and, above all, so that the U.S. military presence would be totally eliminated from our territory. We are currently facing a serious crisis with the United States, precisely due to our history of colonialism and to the very hegemonic geopolitical and strategic interests of the United States, which refuses to withdraw from our territory. According to what was agreed upon, the U.S. presence will have to end on that day. The core, the center of all that we are now seeing as a political crisis is the result of the [U.S.] efforts to find some means to renege on what was agreed upon in 1977.

[Perez] You mentioned a very interesting aspect, which is the fact that according to international law, the treaties are binding. Nevertheless, the United States is doing everything possible not to fulfill them. This means that by not fulfilling them, the United States would be violating international law.

[Nieto] Yes, that would be true. The treaties could be destroyed by an act of hegemonic force. However, the United States already had begun violating the Panama Canal Treaties 2 days before they were even signed.

[Perez] Could you give us two or three specific examples so that our listeners could have some idea about the nature of the violations?

[Nieto] For example, when General Noriega celebrated his 5th anniversary as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, he explained in his speech that the Board of Directors—in which the United States has a majority—of the binational commission that currently manages the canal keeps a double set of books on the toll revenues.

Therefore, from the economic standpoint, we do not have a correct account of the use of the revenue, which even might have ended up in the hands of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution. If this is not considered a violation of the Panama Canal Treaties and if this is not example enough, then I do not know what else I can tell you.

[Perez] No, I think it (?is sufficient enough).

Workers Strike; Students Clash With Police
PA1209192988 Paris AFP in Spanish 1834 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 12 Sep (AFP)—Approximately 125,000 government employees called a 2-hour strike today in Panama City while groups of high school students clashed with riot police in the city's streets.

The National Federation of Associations of Public Employees [FENASEP] today began the "7th day of struggle" in the search for a change in the government's economic policy. FENASEP is demanding the payment of a mid-year bonus and the passing of a civil service law.

FENASEP is also threatening an indefinite general strike next week if it does not obtain a satisfactory reply from President Manuel Solis Palma.

Approximately 300 workers of the port of Balboa, returned to Panama in 1979 after the signing of the Torrijos-Carter treaty, declared an indefinite strike today after failing to get wage increases from the government.

Meanwhile, students from the National Institute today erected barricades at the school entrances, burned one car, and threw stones and bottles at the police, who dispersed them with bird shot. [passage omitted]

Ministry Closes Institute

PA1309003588 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] The Education Ministry announced this afternoon that the National Institute has been closed indefinitely because of this morning's acts of violence. A bulletin issued by the Education Ministry's Public Relations Directorate states that this decision has been made to safeguard the safety of students and other citizens as well as to protect school property and the property of nearby residents, who have been endangered by the frequent marches and demonstrations carried out by National Institute students during the brief period that has passed since the beginning of the school year.

Citizens Reported Seeking Asylum in Canada

PA0809214588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1906 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Ottawa, 8 Sep (DPA)—The Canadian Government, reacting to the growing number of illegal immigrants flowing into the country, has made it mandatory for Panamanian citizens to have visas. Canadian newspapers reported today that during the month of August alone, approximately 700 Panamanians requested political asylum in Canada, bringing the number of Panamanians who have requested political asylum this year to 1,600. Immigration authorities have listed most of these people as "economic refugees" and not as political refugees.

It is not the first time that Canada has resorted to the use of visas to control illegal immigration from certain countries, such as Turkey or Portugal, for example.

A Panamanian citizen admitted on television that he had traveled to Canada in the hope of improving his economic situation, after having tried in vain for 5 months to find a job in Panama.

For the time being, the asylum requests of 56,000 immigrants who live in Canada, and who under Canadian law can legally hold jobs, are awaiting processing.

U.S. 'Pressuring' Travelers

PA1209194588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Sep 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Miami—Immigration inspectors and FBI agents have been subjecting the 70 Panamanians who were unable to continue their trip to Canada because they lacked the necessary visas to lengthy interrogations.

The interrogators are pressuring these Panamanians to state that they left Panama because the Panama Defense Forces were persecuting them.

All the Panamanians that left for Canada had already declared that they were leaving their country in search of jobs and economic stability because the situation in Panama had become very difficult since 6 March. The United States, at the request of Eric Arturo Delvalle, decreed that Panamanian funds be frozen and suspended the payment of all Panama Canal tolls and services to Panama on that date.

Immigration inspectors have offered political asylum to the Panamanians, but most have not accepted the offer.

Many of these Panamanians could not make any statements to newsmen because they are being held in isolation, awaiting Washington's decision.

Reports from Immigration Director Pierre Rivkind's office indicate that these Panamanians will be returned to Panama aboard the airlines they initially traveled on.

Panamanians who travel to Canada have to make a stopover in Miami to change planes.

No Trafficking Links 'Implied' in U.S. Report

PA1309001988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Station commentary: "Washington Gives Up for Lack of Evidence"]

[Text] U.S. State Department acknowledgement that neither Panama nor its highest officials have any connection to drug trafficking is implied in a report issued recently in Washington. The report establishes that Panama is not on the list of countries proven to be accomplices in that illegal activity.

It could not have been otherwise. The first thing that becomes obvious in all these accusations orchestrated by the United States against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, is that the charges are politically motivated and lack legal foundation or validity.

As U.S. media attacks worsened, requests by legal experts demanding reliable evidence to back up the charges increased. Since Washington was unable to present any proof, U.S. authorities resorted to the childish argument that a "mysterious hand" had removed from U.S. Embassy files in Panama documents that supposedly demonstrated beyond a doubt that the Panamanian general was linked to drug trafficking. Nobody could seriously believe such a story. It is no secret that U.S. diplomatic offices have sophisticated security procedures. U.S. Embassies not only handle matters regarding relations with other countries; they also are responsible for a plethora of documents on espionage.

The infamous indictment of Noriega by a Florida grand jury met with the same fate. It never went beyond the phase of being a means by which to manipulate and broaden the publicity campaign directed against the Panamanian officer. The final stroke to this outrageous campaign—which was concocted by those tricksters who formulate U.S. foreign policy—came from John Lawn himself, the administrator of that agency [the DEA] that deals with terrorism and drug trafficking. Without mincing words, he shamelessly told a U.S. congressional subcommittee that the DEA has not a single piece of evidence linking Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega to this alleged crime. Since there is no proof, it is ridiculous to continue to make accusations with trumped up charges against the Panamanian general.

The masterminds of U.S. meddling in the domestic affairs of other countries created a maze in an attempt to confuse Gen Noriega. However, in the end, they themselves have become trapped by their own tricks, simply because lies are not the best weapons for a responsible government to resort to. If indeed there had been proof linking Noriega to drug trafficking, the imperialists' huge propaganda apparatus would have been able to divulge it. They concocted the entire plot, but they lacked the principal evidence. Without it, the world understands that such lies are nothing but a means toward an end: to reverse Panama's gains in attaining complete sovereignty.

Now when they can no longer resort to the drug trafficking issue, and when the true essence of the reprehensible and criminal aggression against a friendly people has been exposed, the only alternative left to the imperialists has been to give up for lack of evidence. They have tried to use the childish excuse that Panama and its rulers are not included among those countries that are strongly committed to combatting drug trafficking. They maintain that Washington does not recognize Panama's current government. That is consolation for fools.

Party Dismisses Delvalle Resignation Report
PA1009015188 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 9 Sep 88 p A-1

[Communique issued by the Political Committee of the Republican Party on 8 September]

[Text] LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA yesterday published the following headline on its front page: "Possible Resignation of Eric Arturo Delvalle." This information was given to confuse our fellow party members and citizens in general.

Duly authorized by our president, who is also president of the Republic of Panama, we flatly deny the report and announce that the party leadership is not negotiating the position of our president, Mr Eric A. Delvalle, who remains firm in his goal of reestablishing democracy in the Republic of Panama.

Panama, 8 September 1988

Jose D. Bazan
Dominador K. Bazan
Jorge D. Porras
Augusto Garcia
Gabriel Jurado A.
Raul Delvalle
Moises Cohen

Delvalle 'Crime Against the Nation' Denounced
PA1109165488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "By Their Fruits Ye Shall Know Them"]

[Text] The biblical phrase that heads this editorial—the most important column in the newspaper—philosophically and ethically summarizes the measure of a person's life. A person who betrays, sells, or strikes his mother is not a good son. A man who has children with a woman who loves him and later abandons the child and the mother is not a good father. The employee who complains about any order received from management but has no qualms about arriving late for work or about not being courteous to customers is not a good employee. The fruits or deeds of these people are, therefore, not examples to be followed. No teacher would point to an unkempt, greedy person, to an immoral woman, or to a traitor as an example for his students to follow.

That is why the photograph [of Eric Arturo Delvalle] that appeared in a Miami newspaper showing a treasonous, country-selling former president spending Panamanian public funds—funds obtained by means of an illegal act that was despicable both politically and ethically—to increase his stable of race horses is conclusive evidence that this man is no longer a Panamanian nor does he feel like a Panamanian. What is even worse, this is a man who never cared about the problems of Panamanians, who today are bravely and stoically confronting the most arrogant aggression in the country's history. The Panamanians are proudly defending their sovereignty and independence while this heartless and cowardly former president spends his time buying expensive mares. His actions are a mockery of our proud people, who have been purified by hunger imposed from the State Department's air-conditioned offices in collaboration with this

traitor, whose name will not sully this column, but who will have to answer before a court for his crime against the nation, the fatherland, and the people.

Molirena Head on Opposition, Government Strategy
PA1209190588 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1229 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Interview with Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (Molirena), by Ramon Jimenez Velez; date and place are not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jimenez] Our first question deals with the political significance of Dr Arnulfo Arias' death. All of us feel there is now a great void because of his great personal attraction and charisma. He had a tremendous ability to bring people together. It has been said that his death has caused the party and the opposition to collapse and that this could spread to other political organizations. Dr Ramirez, we would like you to comment on this.

[Ramirez] There is no doubt that the death of a personality like Dr Arias has made itself felt among the opposition, where he was the most important figure. I think he carved a niche for himself. It has been said that his personal attraction cannot be transferred. I believe, however, that a miracle will take place in this case. I think Dr Arias' prolonged political life and the fact that he died in exile while still being the legal Panamanian president will allow his charisma to be passed on to others. The opposition in Panama will profit from Dr Arias' political command.

I am convinced that his party's leaders, with a great sense of responsibility, will be able to manage this powerful political organization, the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA]. They are experienced and patriotic men. I know they will maintain the PPA's integrity, as Dr Arias did, and that they will be up to the challenge of attaining his goals. When Molirena offered its condolences, by means of a resolution, to the PPA leaders and to Dr Arias' wife, Mrs Arias told us she was happy to hear us say the alliance and unity of the Panamanian opposition should continue because, she said, this was Arias' greatest desire. He wanted the Panamanian opposition to remain strong and united in regard to working toward the democratic ideals for which he had struggled.

This makes me think that the PPA will remain strong and united and that it will be an opposition pillar in Panama.

[Jimenez] You mentioned a vital point. You mentioned the need for opposition unity. You also mentioned Arias' great influence over the people and said that the opposition will profit from this power. This is, however, what we think about the opposition: Some sectors regard this opposition as the last electoral opposition. This opposition brought about the Opposition Democratic Alliance, ADO, formed by Molirena, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and the PPA. In addition, other parties, although they were opposition parties, opposed Arias and discussed unity. Furthermore, there are those who joined the opposition later; the Civic Crusade, for example, whose members were not members of the opposition prior to June of last year. Finally, there are other parties that separated from the regime, particularly Roderick Esquivel's Liberal Party and Eric Arturo Delvalle's Republican Party. Do you regard the opposition as an entity made up of various groups that can each go their separate ways? When you mention the need for opposition unity, do you include all those who oppose the regime?

[Ramirez] Yes. Molirena and I think that the struggle ahead is so important for the future of the homeland that there can be no exclusions. We cannot speak of resentment or revenge. All those who are convinced that the only way to save the homeland is to dislodge the current regime from power must be able to get along together. Everyone who in good faith joins this gigantic struggle must be welcomed to the opposition's ranks. But there is more. The opposition is tremendous at present. I do not think there has ever been in Panama such a large disparity between the number of government supporters and the number of opposition members. I told you in a program about 2 years ago that I estimated the opposition and government forces at 75 and 25 percent, respectively. At the time, I noticed you were surprised at that estimate. But now I can assure you that the number of those in the Panamanian opposition ranks has reached at least 80 percent of the population.

And yet the opposition should not be considered to be formed only by citizens who are already in political parties—regardless of whether they are registered or not—civic and labor unions, or the Civic Crusade. No. The opposition is formed by the Panamanians who oppose a system they think cannot go on ruling the country because it is leading the nation to bankruptcy. This is the great opposition that will have to be led by the leaders with great balance, talent, and ability to achieve what is best for the country.

[Jimenez] Some have said that part of the government's position regarding possible elections is to somehow encourage dissent in the opposition so the 60 [as heard] percent you mention cannot only be lowered but spread thin. In this way, the government could have an edge in the coming elections. It has been said this goal would be achieved in part by the announcement of a dialogue and understanding between the government and opposition. We often hear even top government officials talk about dialogue. We have also heard businessmen, some politicians, and the military speak of a dialogue. The opposition is often said to want to participate in this dialogue. What can you tell us about this?

[Ramirez] It has always been a government strategy. The government from time to time encourages some people and organizations so they, acting in good faith, can initiate dialogues, mediations, and negotiations that

never crystallize because the government does not intend in the least to make a rapprochement. Sad to say, the current regime is convinced that power can be held for an indefinite time by force. This is not a patriotic stance, of course. Power can be held for an indefinite time but at the price of harming the nation.

I will take the liberty of reading a short paragraph of a statement that Molirena issued to the country about 10 months or 1 year ago. The paragraph reads like this: Regrettably mistaking the ability to repress for the ability to govern, those who hold power illegally seem to think that our unprecedented political and economic crisis, which arises from the lengthy misgovernment in the country, is to be resolved solely by the abusive and brutal use of physical force with which they have confronted the people's peaceful protests. We said at the time that nobody questions the military government's ability to repress or their apparently firm determination to use force to stay in power. We must point out, however, that the extension of the current situation will lead the Defense Forces to rule over the debris of a destroyed country. This is true. They have the ability to stay in power for an indefinite period. This is what has happened. But, as we said in our communique, the government is already ruling a destroyed, torn to pieces country. Unfortunately, this frame of mind of those in power, and who make the decisions in this country, has not changed.

I think the military is being encouraged by those who, thriving and getting privileges by their close association with the military, keep telling them that as long as the military has the power to prevent demonstrations and the publication of LA PRENSA, silence radio stations, and keep physical control of the country, they can keep ruling for an indefinite period. It hurts, however, to see they do not realize they are leading the country to destruction, that the nation itself is being threatened, that Panamanians have to leave because they feel they cannot live here. This had never happened before. The fact that young or old Panamanians have never felt the urge to leave because they could no longer live in their own country is a good indication of the tragic Panamanian situation. It is sad that those who hold power illegally ignore reason and patriotism and do not realize the Pyrrhic victory they have achieved by staying in power by force and by sacrificing the nation.

[Jimenez] You have given several reasons why the government has not made a commitment for dialogue and keeps the possibility for an understanding dangling before the opposition's eyes. Some have even said this is to strengthen a deteriorated image abroad and show there is an intent to democratize the country. One of these ruses is elections, which the minister in charge of the Presidency has touted so often as the way disagreements between the various political sectors can be settled. An analysis of the electoral amendments could give us an insight of what the 1989 elections could be like. In addition, the opposition has not been able to voice its stance regarding this situation that forced the opposition parties to withdraw from the debate on these amendments. You have also said the government itself admits the reality of this crisis. How do you view the fact that hundreds and perhaps thousands of young Panamanians are leaving the country, the uncertainty of the political sectors and the future, and the possibility of solving the country's overall problems politically? Some have even said the elections could be held after May 1989 to give the government a chance to strengthen its system.

[Ramirez] I must say the main problem here is that there cannot be a solution to the country's political problem if those who rule the country do not accept a reality: The only way to solve the problem is by making concessions. It is understandable that they do not want to make total or definitive concessions. However, they are not even trying to offer partial concessions. A solution cannot be to leave things as they are, but that seems to be the tone in the famous offers made by the government: that things remain as they are now, and that the opposition accept elections aimed at legitimatizing the current illegitimate situation, which will not solve any of the country's economic and social problems.

The government must accept that it must make serious and important concessions concerning the exercise of power. The all-embracing and arbitrary power of the past can no longer continue. We must return to a state of law, to a government based on the law, and the country must be reorganized within a constitutional framework. The abuse of power must end. As long as the regime does not understand this and as long as it shows no willingness to reach agreements to relinquish that arbitrary power, it will be very difficult to reach an understanding with the opposition.

All the government initiatives have led nowhere, because once the opposition demands certain guarantees, certain gestures of good faith, the government immediately withdraws from the negotiations. The mediators they have encouraged to make contacts with the opposition lose contact with top government authorities, the initiative fails, and we return to the previous situation. A few days later, new efforts begin by another group that offer their good services in good faith. So we have a permanent cycle of renewed efforts which, as you said, are aimed at deceiving, first of all, foreign sectors, foreign governments—particularly Latin American governments—making them believe the government is willing to negotiate, to create rapprochement, to head toward democratization, which is false.

I believe that no Panamanian in the opposition wants the current situation to continue, which would mean the destruction of the Panamanian nation. I also believe that if the government, which has the power to make decisions and can make the necessary changes, made serious proposals with sufficient guarantees and showed that it is willing to make concessions to reorganize the country, to

place the Panamanian nation in a position as a democratic country, a de jure state, those proposals would be heard, and steps could be taken to reach an agreement.

However, offering elections as the sclution to our problems is a mockery, because elections under current conditions would only be, as I said, a way of legitimizing the illegitimate, of legalizing something that is spurious. From what I have heard opposition leaders say—not only in my party, but the PPA, PDC, and other opposition parties, as well as the Civic Crusade—we will fall for that trap.

[Jimenez] We have a last question to close this very interesting interview with Alfredo Ramirez today. Could you concisely and briefly tell what in your opinion are Panama's prospects? You mentioned that it is necessary that the two sides make certain concessions. However, the regime firmly maintains its position as an important repressive force, which obviously the opposition recognizes, as it has suffered its effects. There have been no clear signs from the government showing that it intends to democratize the country, and, therefore, elections cannot be seen as a solution without certain guarantees. Some individuals believe that when the people do not have the methods to choose their own governments, the situation leads to disorder, anarchy, and violence, which we all fear and no one wants. What do you think could happen if the necessary conditions do not exist?

[Ramirez] I think we should not be totally pessimistic. I believe recent incidents, the deep sorrow reflected in the Panamanian people, the continuous suffering, and the protests of all kinds will make even the most recalcitrant realize that it is better to seek an adequate agreement now that it can be achieved without revenge, lasting hatred, and bitterness, instead of waiting for things to reach a point where the people's well-being comes as a result of mourning, blood, and tragedy. I do not want that to happen in my country. I trust that we Panamanians, now on the verge of falling into an abyss, will reconsider our positions and will again make Panama a country where all of us—all Panamanians—can live in peace and tranquillity, contributing to the nation's progress and well-being.

Costa Rica Overflight Part of Drug Exercise

PA1009045488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] The Costa Rican public security minister said today that on 1 September, an unarmed Panamanian helicopter with two Panamanian pilots and a Panamanian engineer and Costa Rican drug officials participated in an exercise in which they overflew Costa Rican territory. This information was provided by ACAN-EFE in response to a report from France stating that Panamanian military personnel had violated Costa Rican territory. According to the Costa Rican public security official, the action on 1 September made it possible to discover marijuana plantations, confiscate drugs, and arrest drug traffickers.

Argentina

Alfonsin on Violence During 9 Sep Strike

PY1309013088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1617 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Excerpt] San Juan, 11 Sep (TELAM)—Referring to the violent episodes during the CGT strike 2 days ago, President Raul Alfonsin stated today in San Juan that on Friday afternoon we saw the people inflamed with fanaticism; we saw rancor flourish; we saw the climate of coexistence disrupted; and we saw these things happen with sadness and grief, as Sarmiento would have felt them.

But we also showed them our willingness to redouble our struggle, preachings and work in defense of today and tomorrow, of institutions, and of men, Alfonsin added.

He was delivering an address at noon today, at the central ceremony to pay homage to Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, on the centennial anniversary of his death. [passage omitted]

CGT Calls 13th General Strike 'Successful'

PY1309002388 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2222 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Sep (DYN)—Tonight the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) described as "successful" the 24-hour national strike it called today. The CGT executive council states that 95.3 percent of the workers observed the strike. CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini warned Peronist political and union leaders who opposed the strike that "They will have to explain their remarks to their respective organizations and to the workers."

Evaluating the 13th general strike called against the UCR Government, the CGT executive council states that the strike was marked "by great discipline and it conveyed our unwavering decision not to delegate to anyone the responsibility for defending the rights and liberties we, the Argentine people, should enjoy in a democracy."

In a news conference, Ubaldini announced that the CGT leadership will meet again on 14 September to call a meeting of the CGT confederated central committee which will determine how to continue the struggle.

Explosion in Tucuman City Townhall, Damage Heavy

PY1209120988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1125 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] San Miguel de Tucuman, 12 Sep (TELAM)—Early this morning a powerful bomb exploded in Tucuman City Townhall. The explosion caused extensive damage to the building, broke the windows of neighboring buildings due to the shockwaves, and caused panic among the neighbors who, at that hour, 0300 [0600 GMT] were sleeping.

Tucuman City Mayor Raul Martinez Araoz (UCR) termed this barbaric action as distressing and regrettable, while municipal government Secretary Luis Yanicelli said that the incident is the result of excesses that should not have happened because today's strike is the fruit of impulsiveness, at a time when calm and reflection should prevail. But, he stressed, he does not lay the blame of this attack at the labor sector's feet, but at the feet of those who take advantage of this type of situation.

Chile

Pinochet Delivers State of Nation Address

PY1209165288 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1525 GMT 11 Sep 88

[Speech by President Augusto Pinochet from Diego Portales Building in Santiago on the anniversary of the 1973 military coup—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Military, civilian, church authorities; ladies and gentlemen; fellow countrymen:

On this anniversary of 11 September 1973, I report to the nation on the economic, political, administrative, and socioeconomic development of the nation during the 1987-88 period.

I begin this address by paying homage to all members of the Armed Forces and the forces of order who gave their lives for Chilean freedom. [applause]

We are now celebrating the 15th anniversary of that heroic day. The importance of the heroic sacrifice of those men is ever increasing and gives us more strength to face future challenges.

This 11 September 1988 has special meaning, because soon—on 5 October—the Chilean people will choose whether they want to continue the massive task that has been undertaken by this current regime during all these years, or to go back to the socialist experiment that has already failed.

This is the right time to meditate on our accomplishments and to analyze what the future may bring us: The consolidation and projection of the creative effort that we, Chileans, have made for our country during these past few years.

All Chileans without exception have contributed to achieve a more just, more free, and more prosperous way of life. Chileans have placed their creativeness at the service of the fatherland in order to overcome poverty, hatred, and useless struggles.

Fifteen years ago, the Chilean Armed Forces and the Carabineros Corps took over the government to save the country from becoming a Marxist society. In doing so,

the Armed Forces fulfilled the unavoidable duty of heeding to the cry of an entire nation, a nation which has never been defeated or subjugated.

It has been said that the task of rebuilding the country at the moral and material level, and the recovery of democratic institutions have demanded the exhaustive and constant effort of all Chileans and of the National Defense forces. It has also been said that the permanence of the Armed Forces in power was going to be a mere interlude between two partisan governments. On the contrary, the Armed Forces planned to implement a new stage in our country's institutional development in a serious and responsible manner.

During this period, the Armed Forces also planned to implement a gradual return to democracy. Therefore, our first thought today is whether we have fulfilled all those commitments that were made. We have established the basis for a free and democratic society which, within a few months, will fully enforce all of its laws.

Our resolute willingness to consolidate democracy and gradually enforce all democratic institutions has been proven by our decision to lift the states of exception and the prohibition on entering the country that affected some people.

We have also established proper socioeconomic conditions so that by the next century as a developed country, Chile will be able to overcome the poverty we inherited after decades of stagnation, demagogery, and socialist policies.

If we look to the past, we can proudly state that we have been successful in overcoming great difficulties, obstacles, and challenges.

Those extremists groups which promoted terrorism and violence and were protected by the Popular Unity [UP] government have continued to carry out constant and indiscriminate aggression. This aggression has diminished but only because of tactical purposes. We must note that the government has confronted this aggression courageously and energetically.

My admiration as a soldier and government leader goes to those members of the Armed Forces who have died in the struggle against this scourge. Today, I pay tribute to those men and women who have been the innocent victims of the treacherous and criminal activities carried out by terrorists. We also painfully regret the disruptive attitude of certain sectors of our society, which do not understand the political process being experienced in the country. We thoroughly and vigorously repudiate the foreigners who attempt to interfere in our domestic affairs [applause] because this interference threatens our sovereignty. The Chileans who support and promote the position of these foreigners deserve our deepest repudiation because they are supporting foreign interference in affairs that concern Chile alone.

In addition, the large majority of Chileans do not want to experience any socialist adventures again. This is because today we are about to consolidate a free regime. We will implement a democratic regime in which all citizens will participate. Therefore, it is through the sovereign will of the people that Chileans will decide their future. [applause]

In the present stage we must take into account that despite everything, the institutional system that has been established is vulnerable to the regressive action that may be undertaken by sectors hostile to a free society.

Nevertheless, this is such a strong and serious undertaking that no one can honestly doubt the government's will to achieve those political, economic, and social objectives that were originally established.

Soon the country will have to decide its future. Our first thought before making any decision must be to review what has been said, what has been achieved, the difficulties we have overcome and to assess Chilean society itself. After this is done we must ponder the future and how to confront it.

This government reports its achievements and seeks to project itself with the sole objective of consolidating institutional order and political democratic mechanisms that will be placed at the disposal of political parties and independent sectors no matter what their position regarding the government. This is a commitment to the country's future that must be taken into account in its exact context.

A new regime has been established in view of the collapse of the old democracy. Therefore, the future of the country, its stability and social peace, depend on how successful we are in projecting what has been achieved in the past few years.

Everything we have achieved, everything we have done has been for the sake of our only party: the Republic of Chile. [applause] Therefore, it has its arms open to harbor all those who inhabit this country.

Chileans with a free and pluralist spirit, including those who because of one reason or another are members of the opposition, know that in the new democracy all sectors will be able to participate and that they will be able to exercise their rights and safeguard their interests.

What is deplorable is to ignore the established political system and unite with totalitarian groups because by doing so it undermines the peaceful development of our political institutions.

We are now getting ready for an electoral process aimed at democratically choosing a president to define our future. The administration over which I have the honor to preside is absolutely sure that with the plebiscite, Chile will teach the world a new lesson in democracy

[applause]. An unprecedented number of Chileans will freely, secretly, and formally express, through their votes, their will to consolidate democracy, as foreseen in our constitution, or to destroy 15 years of patriotic work.

Fellow Chileans, on 5 October, the Chilean people will sovereignly express their support for the candidate who was proposed by the Junta members and the Carabineros director general to occupy the position of president of the Republic during the next term in office.

We have arrived at this crucial moment with all the laws to complement our already promulgated Constitution in a fairly advanced stage of debate in the legislative branch.

I take this opportunity to pay my earnest homage to the members of the honorable Junta [applause] for their concern and everlasting honesty in complying with their administrative and legislative tasks.

I also thank the executive branch advisers, the members of the council of state, and the members of the committee for the study of the constitutional organizational laws. I cannot fail to point out the important job done by the members of the economic and social council, an advisory organization that has analyzed important issues with accuracy and seriousness. [applause]

It has not been easy building a modern economy that would make Chile into a developed country. We have had to resolve many inherited problems in order to overcome the serious recessions of 1975 and 1982.

Between 1975 and 1985 [as heard], Chilean trade totaled half of what had been achieved in the previous decade while international interest rates reached the highest level in the century.

In view of this, Chile doubled its efforts. It expanded the modernization of the productive sector and undertook a process of sustained economic growth.

We placed particular emphasis on increasing exports. To do this we implemented a number of policies, among these were the implementation of a realistic exchange rate and moderate tariffs.

Within this context, the authorities have always been ready to issue and improve regulations to help achieve an accelerated and stable development of our exports.

In keeping with this, among other measures this year we have perfected the government export subsidy program and the deferred payment of export duties.

Chile has decisively increased its exports. It is amazing how, despite adverse international conditions, Chile has been able to surpass the export volumes of 1973. In 1973, exports represented only 14 percent of the GDP [gross domestic product], while in 1987 they represented 34 percent of the GDP.

The list of exportable products is overwhelming. Non-copper exports have tripled since this administration took office. This is one of this administration's most significant achievements because in view of the wealth that has been generated these past few years, Chile will be able to better confront any eventual adversities.

We are proud that this economic structure is no longer based on a single product. There are now many exportable products. This strengthens the economic structure and stability to the benefit of our fellow countrymen and children.

The government is promoting a solid, stable economic development. But we cannot achieve this merely by diversifying exports. This also entails a high level of national savings and increased investments. In the past few years, we have multiplied incentives to reach this goal.

The proper operation of the new social security system, the implementation of cuts in public spending, the implementation of a tax reform aimed at taxing consumption and the capitalization of the banking system, have helped to increase the national savings rate which estimates show will total 14.7 percent of the GDP in 1988. In 1984 the national savings rate was 3 percent of the GDP due to the impact of the foreign debt crisis.

All this clearly shows that private initiative responds positively to proper policies. Savings and investments and the development of the export sector are essential to the Chilean economy so that it can experience a sustained economic growth which, since 1984, has reached an average of 5 percent per year.

During the first half of this year, the GDP recorded a 5.8 percent increase in comparison to the same period last year. This places us in a leading position in Latin America.

Today, Chile is an example because of its economic growth and price stability.

Fellow countrymen:

Curbing inflation is one of the priorities of this government. Estimates predict that the inflation rate this year will be about 10 percent, one of the lowest in the last 30 years.

In the past, Chileans have experienced the scourge of inflation which primarily undermines the workers' salaries, causes instability, and inflicts a deadly blow to economic growth.

We were able to eradicate inflation only after achieving price stability and discipline in the monetary and fiscal sector. This is one of the goals we established on 11 September 1973 and today we can proudly say: Gentlemen, the mission has been accomplished. [applause]

Although salaries have experienced a moderate growth since 1986, they have increased in real terms as of 1987, and more so in July 1987 and July 1988 at which time they experienced a 9.2-percent increase in real terms.

All this shows what can be expected in the future regarding workers incomes. But I reassert this will mainly depend on the continued implementation of the present economic policy.

The successful economic policy was also reflected on a 15-percent salary readjustment for public servants as of June of this year. In addition in May, pensions were readjusted by an average of 15 percent while lower pensions were readjusted by 17.5 percent. Moreover, by the end of the first half of the year, the minimum wage was increased by 24 percent; while the accumulative inflation rate only totals 1.5 percent.

What a difference from the past when intensive salary increases were implemented only to have inflation rates increase again and thus undermine the recently implemented salary increases.

Fellow countrymen:

With great satisfaction today I can announce that the government has submitted to the legislative branch a bill through which in the future public servants and municipal employees will receive a special bonus totaling 6,000 pesos per worker. [applause] In addition, retirees will receive a bonus of 2,000 in the form of a family allotment and an additional bonus of 2,000 pesos in the form of retirement benefit. [applause]

This government does not make mere promises; it does things when it has the proper means to carry them through. [applause]

Fellow countrymen, all the achievements I have outlined are based on a close and permanent control of the economic policy and the balance of basic macroeconomic guidelines. I do not want to downplay the role of the different tools of the economic policy, but the main ingredients of these achievements have been the implementation of realistic fiscal measures characterized by strict austerity in public expenses, rational management of state companies, and strict control over the payment of tax obligations.

The permanent control that the government has maintained over public expenses and the development of the economy has allowed us to implement in 1987 and 1988 a number of tax cuts which promote increases in production and employment levels. Two of them are noteworthy. The first is the reduction of export tariffs from 20 to 15 percent, which together with a 4-percent dollar devaluation, will give an additional impulse to exports, and therefore to production and to the creation of new jobs.

The second measure is a reduction of the value added tax, better known as VAT, from 20 to 16 percent. This will extend the visible progress of the Chilean economy to the entire nation.

The decrease in taxes that has been implemented clearly shows that this government trusts the creative capacity of people and that it is certain that private initiative is the best means of national development.

These tax cuts have been implemented along with an increased budget for items having more social impact. The government grants priority to the struggle against the scourge of unemployment. The many creative measures that have been implemented have yielded positive results. Despite the fact we are now in the most critical months of the year, the unemployment rate is about 9 percent. This means that in the past 5 years, from the time of the last recession, we have generated over 1.2 million jobs. This is something that no other government in the history of Chile has been able to do. [applause]

Despite the auspicious results that have been achieved so far, we will continue to implement these policies to make sure that all Chileans have access to a stable and dignified job with a just salary.

Based on the established guidelines, unemployment may decrease to 7 percent. By the end of 1989, it is estimated that unemployment will total 6 percent.

From this platform, I urge all Chilean businessmen to implement intensive job programs and to pay workers just salaries. [applause]

I know there are businessmen who have been successful. The government is happy about their success. But those who are successful should share their success with their workers. [applause]

We must also take into account that workers are the basis of a companies' development and therefore of the entire nation.

As for the foreign debt, we have continued to implement a renegotiation strategy in order to obtain the resources needed for national development. We have also decreased the overall foreign debt by taking advantage of existing international market alternatives.

In August, Chile signed new contracts to reduce interest rates. Through these contracts Chile obtained more flexible terms. Therefore, we have new possibilities to handle the foreign debt. [passage omitted]

Our foreign policy continues to uphold those international principles and norms that guarantee a healthy coexistence of countries, and that allow for effective and reciprocal collaboration and exchange among countries.

Our foreign policy is based on essential principles such as a peaceful solution of controversies, equal rights of nations, complete adherence to international treaties, self-determination of countries, and nonintervention in the other countries affairs.

Chile wishes to maintain diplomatic relations with all countries, and it acts according to the previously mentioned principles which supersede ideological and political differences.

In view of this, we have established important financial and commercial ties with over 120 countries throughout the world.

The coherence of the economic policy implemented by the government and the responsible effort of public and private business sectors have allowed us to achieve important goals including the opening of new markets, and foreign investments.

Our relations with Argentina and Peru have developed within a framework of cooperation and understanding. Our relations with Argentina improved considerably, especially after the implementation of the 1984 Peace and Friendship Treaty.

These exchanges have opened the doors to progress and to economic and physical integration.

We have conducted frequent and fluid dialogue on bilateral issues with Peru. These talks have led to a process of rapprochement between our two countries.

We have demonstrated our interest in closer relations with Bolivia. In June 1987, before the dialogue between the two countries' foreign ministers was interrupted, Chile said that in accordance with its permanent wish for rapprochement with Bolivia, our country believed it could cooperate with Bolivia in the search for formulas that, without changing the national, territorial or maritime boundaries, would allow for a bilateral integration useful to the well being and progress of the two peoples. I reiterated this concept in my 1987 state of the nation message. We continue to hold the same view today.

We maintain links of rapprochement and cooperation with the rest of the Latin American countries. We follow the situation in Central America with great interest. We have maintained positive and close relations with the Central American peoples since the beginning of our independent history.

Within the framework of the traditional feelings that have historically characterized our contacts, our relations with the United States of America occupy an important position in the field of our foreign policy. In this sense we can point out the expansion of our common interests, and an increased cooperation in the fields of trade and finances. We cannot ignore, however, that some obstacles prevent a closer rapprochement. These obstacles are related to disinformation regarding the true reality being experienced in our country; to the political manipulation of our relations by some groups who are interested in distorting this information; and to the attempts by some U.S. sectors to interfere in our institutional process and to distort the image of the Chilean people's real feeling. In other words, these gentlemen do not know us. [applause] Jealous of our sovereignty, we have firmly rejected any attempt to interfere in our affairs. [applause] Simultaneously, we have reiterated our desire to find ways to earnestly cooperate with the United States on the basis of mutual respect. Naturally, however, this respect excludes any type of interference in our domestic affairs.

We have achieved important progress in our relations with European countries, particularly in economic, commercial, and cultural matters.

Because of our geographical situation, Chile is convinced that our future development lies in the Pacific Ocean region. The ocean will be the link used for rapprochement, unity, and increased trade among all Pacific nations. For this reason we believe it is increasingly important to strengthen our relations with the countries and organizations of this region.

We have tried hard, together with our neighbors on the continent to strengthen the South Pacific Permanent Commission. Within this framework, the government believes it is especially important to strengthen our relations with the PRC and our important economic and financial relations with Australia, New Zealand, and other countries of the region. Investments from these nations reflect the international confidence in the development of our country. It is worth stressing our commercial and cultural links with Japan, and our growing relations with nations such as the ROK, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore.

Chile has maintained its participation in the most important multilateral world and regional forums and organizations, and it has always insisted on the urgent need to politicize them. We have placed special emphasis on a general agreement for the use of outerspace and

nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, on the creation of mechanisms for regional disarmament, and on addressing the problems of the enviroment and world hunger.

We have also continued to support and participate in discussions on rights to the sea and use of the Antartic.

We agree that drug trafficking is a serious problem. The struggle against this scourge makes it necessary to restructure our legal system. In this regard, Chile this year sponsored two initiatives on which we are now consultating with other countries.

In sum, we believe that Chile is a modern country, and its multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community are not limited to the political field, but also include trade, financing, foreign investments, scientific and technical exchange and cooperation, and cultural relations. This has made possible the export of Chilean products to all continents. Never has Chilean presence in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific region been more active than today. Never before has the serious and financial and economic image of Chile been more respected.

The great accomplishments of all these years, which are faithfully reflected by the account of this past period, have been made possible by the joint work of those in government and the governed, and by the resolute decision to overcome underdevelopment and to establish an atmosphere of order, peace, and tranquillity, which is the appropriate environment for creative work.

We must continue along the constructive course. We cannot turn our back on progress. The path along which Chile had to walk to reach this moment, when Chileans will resolutely consolidate the work that began 15 years ago, has not been an easy one. The tireless efforts of Chilean men and women have managed to transform a country that was in ruins into a new, strong, and vigorous nation.

Today Chile is a different, modern country that has adopted to its daily life the advantages offered by the world, a country that looks at its promising future—in which we can take a significant step forward—with optimism and faith.

The result of the task undertaken by this government is an accomplishment that goes beyond men and institutions. Everything we have achieved so far is based on the use of appropriate, specific policies and on our strong determination to follow them.

We have implemented a sound, specific, and consistent socioeconomic and political project, which has already proven to be successful. Our ideals stem from our unyielding commitment to freedom, justice, and human dignity, as we have clearly and openly stated. [applause]

Gentlemen: We have decided to preserve freedom resolutely. A team made up of men, women, and youths—who have proven to be capable of conducting a process and of working—have been charged with political and socioeconomic tasks. This team, which has shown its experience, is ready to continue to do all in its power in the service of Chile in the stage we are now beginning. The massive work undertaken by the government must be continued. It would be unforgivable to waste it and once again to improvise and return to failed revolutionary adventures.

Faced with these circumstances and this massive work, we can await a future that is full of hope. What do the political parties that support the No-vote have to offer? Only uncertainty, hesitation, vagueness, many accords [applause], and very little understanding of the problems that affect all Chileans.

The huge task conducted by this administration must be consolidated through a transition to a new institutional, democratic, and modern administration, very different from the one we have known in the past. We want an open democratic administration, but we do not want an administration split among the interests of some parties and totalitarian groups. We want an open, democratic administration based on laws that guide the national life, but we do not want a permissive administration granting concessions that may allow the dissemination of doctrines that preach hatred, clashes, and violence.

This new democratic system must consolidate the new institutions, strengthen the new habits, and allow the new generations to assume their responsibilities regarding the public administration. The vigor and harmony of this new political system, to be fully enforced in a few more months, will depend on the responsible attitude of all Chileans.

I invite all my fellow countrymen to generously face this challenge and to continue to build the Chile we all want. [applause]

National unity is essential for the high objectives that we have set for ourselves. I ask Chileans to unite their efforts so that all of us can consolidate this work, rebuilding democracy upon the healthy foundations of the values and principles that are dearest to freedom.

Based on the lessons of our history, we have followed a gradual course, so as to preserve peace and harmony during a difficult process of evolution. Let us look at the results with the satisfaction that we have fulfilled our duty.

The work that has been done throughout these years must be consolidated over the next 8 years. In my capacity as president, I led several phases of the gradual

transition to the new institutional system. This transition has included progress in freedom of the press, the operation of political parties, and all the requirements to restore full democracy.

I am aware that the democratic institutions provided for in the Constitution must be strengthened during this consolidation stage. This, however, will demand sustained efforts to follow a constructive path in freedom, respect, and tolerance.

As I have done so far, in the future I hope to be able to fulfill the missions with which the Chilean people may entrust me, always preserving the superior interest of the nation, which is so dear to me and for which I am ready to give my life. [applause]

Chileans: Our duty is to look at the future. Over the past 15 years we have done more than could have been done in an entire century. It is necessary to redouble the efforts for modernization and renewal, in order to concentrate the work of the nation on three major paths: Democracy, economic development, and social progress.

After the victory of the Yes-vote, the nation will enter a political process marked by full democracy, freedom, and stability, in which peace, order, and security will be preserved to allow for individual and national development.

A congress will begin operating in 1990. This congress should establish the necessary conditions to allow the country to continue moving forward.

Regional development councils have already begun to operate. Community development councils, which will guarantee that people will genuinely participate in community and regional governments, will be installed.

Participative democracy at the rank-and-file level will help the government become more clearly aware of the real problems affecting the people, the districts, and the regions.

An autonomous central bank will handle public finances and will be an appropriate tool for checking demagogic and inflationary policies.

All this is part of a huge social task that will allow us to continue making progress in our struggle against poverty.

Fellow countrymen: Like never before in our history, our victory at the plebiscite will give true possibilities for personal and family development to the men, women, and youths of this country. These are not empty promises because empty promises are not the government's style. We have never deceived anyone in Chile. We have always preferred concrete achievements. Our facts speak louder than deceptive words. The great accomplishments of these years are our testimony. [applause]

Chileans: On the eve of a new century, the country cannot afford to waste what it has accomplished. We will continue to give the best opportunities to the youth by creating new universities and technical and advanced training centers, and by giving scholarships to deserving students who cannot pay for their studies. Chile should never deny its youth the chance for a better future. We will continue to encourage our youth with ideas and suggestions for beginning careers in the professional, labor, and business fields.

We want to give more help to those who are willing to work the fertile lands that have been opened by the Austral Highway. Summing up, we will continue to follow the policies that will give all youth opportunities to work.

The expansion of sports, which has grown to an unprecedented extent, as well as cultural and artistic activities will be promoted through policies that encourage creative potential. All Chilean youths will have a great future in this system of freedom. So will the workers of my fatherland because only in a free economy is it possible to have stable, productive, and well paid jobs, and sure possibilities of progress. Each worker will become an owner. This is our objective, which we are approaching through the implementation of the people's capitalist system.

The women will relax with the certainty that their beloved ones can work, create, produce, and study in an atmophere of order and peace. The women, who were the strongholds in the struggle for freedom, are in the best position to appraise the significance of these years. [applause]

Chilean professionals and technicians will have new possibilities for development and specialization. The national science and technology plan, a development system that is open to the world, the development of the data processing sector, and the promotion of research are factors that will offer unprecedented possibilities to our professionals and technicians.

Chilean businessmen also have a clear path to new accomplishments and endeavors. Businessmen bear the heaviest responsibility for increasing the living standards of the people, provided they are allowed to develop within a system of freedom. The creation of wealth and progress must be a priority objective of Chilean businessmen.

The path that will open before all Chileans after our victory is clear, true, and real; and that is the most important thing as far as our future is concerned. The victory of the Yes-vote will make personal and national progress possible. The victory of the Yes-vote in the coming plebiscite will allow us to effectively eradicate poverty and strengthen our cultural roots and the principles that have made our nation great. All this will be accomplished only after the victory of the [word indistinct] freedom that we epitomize. [applause]

It would be naive to believe that the consolidation of our economic system—which has demonstrated sustained growth and which is based on private initiative, openness, and willingness to accept foreign influences and capital—can occur under a government that has not prove its faithfullness to these principles and that intends to destroy all that has already been done.

Scientific development, Chilean projection toward the new Pacific Basin, and progress toward a consolidated state that is not based on [words indistinct] and bureaucracy can occur only when there is total identification with democratic ideals that have a sense of future.

Fellow countrymen, the path we will soon begin to tread takes off from the plebiscite and will lead Chile toward the highest point of its history.

No one, no Chilean can refuse to contribute to this event. I, myself, will dedicate myself entirely to my tasks as president. Once again, I make a patriotic call to the opposition. I urge them to offer their serious, earnest, and constructive contribution to this task, which is the duty of all.

Democracy is a tool of coexistence. Democracy is achieved day by day through the dynamics of personal freedom and through the actual participation in the national economy and culture and in the formation of a national conscience.

Different opinions are acceptable, but truth and justice must be respected. Only by respecting truth and justice can we leave a civic inheritance to future generations. This is the key to hope.

We Chileans, who coexist in harmony, must together perfect a state of orderly liberty and solidarity. We must agree on our performance of public duties, and we must objectively meet the demands of Chilean problems.

We must overcome prejudice, ideological barriers, and personal feelings and interests, while pursuing our common interests. Only in this way will we achieve our national goals and objectives.

I urge my fellow countrymen to renew Chilean national life and fulfill the principles of brotherhood and tolerance. This is the first demand we must meet if we are to deserve a future in which our fatherland will become even greater. The future generations are watching us. Our commitment is to these future generations. [applause]

With the strength of this certainty, we will meet our coming challenges. The path toward reconciliation and grandeur awaits us. By treading this path we will learn to cultivate freedom and solidarity in accordance with our historical challenges, the progress we are making at present, and the demands of a future Chile, which shines in the merry eyes of our children—who are free and full of hope—and in the eyes of our children's children. [applause]

Fellow countrymen, at this decisive moment in the history of our fatherland, I could not end my speech without publicly thanking those five martyrs who lost their lives to save the president of the Republic nearly 2 years ago at the [word indistinct]. [applause] I wish to express all my affection to the relatives of those heroes who, despite being wounded, struggled bravely to repel the attack of those who hate. To all those brave men, one of whom is still suffering the painful consequences of his courage, I express my appreciation, respect, and my admiration. [applause]

Fellow countrymen, as I conclude, I pray to the Almighty God to continue to bless us Chileans and this country we love so dearly. I pray that he grant us the strength to continue to make progress in this phase of renewal, that with his help we may always have faith in a better future for our fatherland and a better future for our children.

Viva Chile! [applause]

Colombia

Guerrillas Reportedly Approve Barco Peace Plan

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[Text] Bogota, 12 Sep (AFP)—Today Colombia's leftist guerrillas approved a peace plan proposed by liberal President Virgilio Barco's administration, but noted that peace will require solutions, not just to military problems, but also to the institutional, economic, political, and social violence.

The Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board [CNG], which is comprised of five of the main subversive movements in the country, sent a lengthy message to the government praising the peace plan and maintaining the great need for a social pact for life, peace, and democracy.

However, the guerrillas noted that the government's peace plan does not contemplate the interests of the nation's masses and is limited solely and exclusively to the solution of the armed conflict between the National Army and the armed movement.

"The problem of peace cannot be limited to a military solution," the CNG said, adding that it is willing to cooperate completely in the achievement of harmony, normalization, and reconciliation in rural and urban areas.

"We feel that for peace to be achieved, there must be an appropriate climate, requiring the suspension of the state of siege, the dismantling of paramilitary groups, and the repeal of the antiterrorist statute," the CNG said.

In early September, President Barco presented to the country a peace initiative which, according to the CNG, is being subjected to an in-depth revision.

The CNG's message to the government said that Colombia's legal institutions "constitute the clearest expression of institutional violence exerted by certain sectors and the state security organizations."

The CNG also called for a commitment by the government to the defense of life, arguing that without a national dialogue, "The peace proposal that you have made, Mr President, will be doomed to failure."

The FARC, M-19, Quintin Lame Commando, Revolutionary Workers Party, and the National Army of Liberation, who signed the message to Barco, also noted the stellar role played by the church.

"We reiterate with patriotic commitment our guerrilla movement's desire for peace and social justice. Our movement is not simply seeking a return to civilian life, but formulas and practical solutions that can transform the nation's institutional, social, political, and economic structure with the resources of peace, rather than those of war," the letter stated in closing.

Army, ELN Clash Leaves One Soldier Dead

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[Text] Bucaramanga—One soldier and two guerrillas were killed during the most recent clashes between Pizarro Battalion troops and ELN [Army of National Liberation] guerrillas in Arauca. The clashes took place in the La Esmeralda area, a few kilometers from the site of the latest dynamite attack against the Cano-Limon-Covenas oil pipeline. The dead soldier is Naider de Jesus Villegas. Second Division Army troops continue their operations against the rebels in the area. In particular, the Army is trying to control and prevent new attacks against the nation's main oil pipeline.

Debt, Reserves, Income, Exports Increase

PA1209134688 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Sep 88 p 2-B

[Text] A report from the Bank of the Republic comparing the first 8 months of 1987 and 1988 indicates that the foreign debt rose from $630.8 billion to $674.2 billion.

The country's net reserves are currently $3.857 billion, which indicates a considerable increase thanks to the resources attained through the "Concorde" loan.

The nation's revenues rose to $3.416 billion, $228 million more than the same period last year, according to the Bank of the Republic's figures on Colombian exports this year.

The report says this figure is 7 percent higher than 1987 figures, and the favorable result was attained through increased exports, which rose to $2.273 billion, and include nontraditional, coal, iron, nickel, and oil exports.

Gold purchases have also increased, but in the same proportion as last year.

Revenues for services and transfers decreased despite the increase reported in transfers, investment of reserves, and "other services."

Revenues for August 1987 were $3.188 billion.

Total export revenues for 1987 were 5.447 billion pesos.

Meanwhile, expenditures as of mid-August rose to 3.386 billion [currency not specified], 507 million more than the same period in 1987.

The Bank of the Republic indicated that these figures resulted from an increase in exports and increased expenditures in services, particularly freight charges and other services. Referring to the latter, the most important expenditures were bank endorsements, collateral [posicion propia], port and airport expenditures, insurance and reinsurance, and technical services.

It must be noted that interest increased as the foreign debt rose from $630.8 billion to $674.2 billion. Likewise, a decrease in official services and in the transfer of earnings and dividends was reported.

Minister Says All Sectors Affected by Drugs

PA1209123488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Report by Azucena Lievana; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today Justice Minister Guillermo Plazas Alcid raised tough issues regarding drug trafficking and drug addiction during the inauguration of the Feast of Life. The minister said that Colombians are not to blame for these problems:

[Plazas] "All Colombians—and let the world know it—Colombia, our people, and our government are not responsible for the worldwide tragedy of drug trafficking. We are its victims." He said that no sector in the country has remained unharmed by drug trafficking:

[Plazas] "All sectors in the country have felt the influence of this activity. We must be frank and unbiased. We must tell ourselves the truth."

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to face the problem nationwide through the National Narcotics Council:

[Plazas] "We are going to reach the governorships through the Council. Through the governorships we will reach the municipalities, and through the municipalities we will reach the remotest areas. We must keep in mind that in our opinion drug trafficking cannot be ended through violence. This is not a problem for gunmen; this is a problem for teachers."

The justice minister said that protection is being given to judges who have been threatened during the course of their investigations.

Paraguay

Stroessner Carries Out 'Usual' Meetings

PY1209153588 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 1513 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] This morning Juan Jose Benitez Rickman, information and culture under secretary stated that President Stroessner's state of health is at an excellent level.

During a news conference, Benitez Rickman stated that for our own happiness and that of the Paraguayan people the president's health is at the optimum, and even more, his state of health is very good. [sentence as heard]

During the news conference, which was held in Rickman's office this morning, he stated that the chief of state carried out his usual tasks and that he granted an audience to Augusto Sabino Montanaro, president of the Council of State, president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, and interior minister.

Benitez Rickman also announced that preparations are being made for the chief of state's upcoming visit to the Republic of China.

Further Reportage

PY1209162988 Asuncion PRC Television Network in Spanish 1611 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Announcer read report during the course of noon newscast]

[Text] We have just received the official report from Lopez Palace.

This morning, his excellency, the president of the Republic, Army General Alfredo Stroessner, worked in his office at Lopez Palace where he studied important state matters and signed the day's decrees.

During the course of the morning he granted the following audiences: To Sabino Augusto Montanaro, interior minister and president of the Colorado Party executive board.; Fulvio Monges Ocampos, executive secretary of the Technical Planning Secretariat of the Presidency; Foreign Minister Roney Elpidio Acevedo; Industry and Commerce Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion; and to Finance Minister Quartermaster General Elvio Alonso Martino.

Peru

Minister Salinas on Dialogue With IMF

PY1209171788 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Abel Salinas has said that he will intensify our dialogue with the international financial community but, as a matter of principles, we have no intention of holding talks with the IMF.

[Begin recording] [Salinas] I believe, as we have mentioned before, we must be serious about that. We will intensify our talks with the international financial community. We have said that since the beginning. This does not mean, however, that we must accept the IMF letters of intent. Our institutional relations with the IMF have not been interrupted: They have been broken.

Another topic regarding the government position is the treatment given to our foreign debt. The government has decided that it will assign not more than 10 percent, or 8 percent, or maybe 12 percent [as heard] of our GDP to honor our debt. We cannot define the amount. What matters is the philosophy of the Peruvian position regarding the debt, which is now being followed by several other countries. First, we must honor our domestic debt, precisely, our domestic debt, the debt we owe to the Peruvian people.

[Unidentified Reporter] The opposition, who criticizes this philosophy, says that if we want to negotiate, renegotiate, or create some ties with the World Bank or the IDB, as you said in your speech, we will have to go to the IMF because this is a condition imposed by these institutions. Can you confirm that?

[Salinas] I am not aware of such a condition; unless some information has been kept from me. I have understood during my first few days as head of the Finance Ministry that there are no conditions whatsoever. [end recording]

Police Capture Alleged Shining Path Members

PY1209091788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0229 GMT 12 Sep 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Sep (EFE)—Police of the Ayacucho Department have captured eight terrorists who have been accused of murdering four persons, including two policemen. The terrorists have been turned over to the provincial prosecutor, according to a report released today in Lima.

The captured persons, alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path group, operated in the districts of Santa Ana and Belen, and in other places in Ayacucho, the capital of the department, according to a report published today in the Lima newspaper EL COMERCIO.

The capture took place a week ago during a police raid where dynamite sticks and grenades were taken from the guerrillas. The source reports that the eight persons were handed over to the prosecutor on 10 September.

Police have stated they have evidence the group killed a second lieutenant, an agent of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP), an artisan, and a former prison inmate.

Uruguay

50 Percent 'Disapprove' of Sanguinetti

PY0709190488 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0001 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Montevideo, 6 Sep (EFE)—According to a survey conducted by the firm "Consultant Groups," and published by Montevideo's LA REPUBLICA newspaper, 50 percent of all Uruguayans disapprove of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's performance as president. Only 25 percent of those questioned said Sanguinetti's performance was good.

The percentage of those who disapprove of the government shows a sharp drop when compared with the results of other surveys a few months ago.

The newspaper says the resutlts of the poll "caused considerable concern among ruling Colorado Party congressmen" taking into consideration that it comes just 13 months before the general elections.

The survey covered the entire country. Montevideo, where half of the 3 million Uruguayans live, showed the highest disapproval rate of the president's performance. Fifty-eight percent disapprove, while only 20 percent voiced their approval.

In the country's interior the trend was reversed: 20 percent disapproved of the government's performance, while 32 percent approved of it.

A majority of those questioned said their major concern was the state of the economy. A total of 59 percent said the situation this year is worse than last year, 22 percent said the situation is about the same, and 17 percent said it has improved.

Most of the country's pessimists live in Montevideo. Fourty-four percent of those questioned in the capital said they thought the situation will get worse in the future. In the interior 35 percent had the same opinion.

The Colorado Party won the 1984 general elections, the first ones after 12 years of military rule, with 41.23 percent of the votes.

President To Visit PRC in November

PY0809123388 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish
0930 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will visit the PRC in November. This was decided during a recent meeting between Uruguayan Government officials and diplomatic representatives of the PRC.

The exact date of the visit was not decided but our sources have said that it would be during the second half of November. The president will be in the PRC for more than 10 days and will visit Beijing and possibly Shanghai. The respective Foreign Ministries will draft the presidential agenda and the summary of agreements that will be signed during the visit. The official delegation will comprise the president, several ministers, government officials, representatives of the different political parties, and businessmen.

Government Not To Authorize Falklands Trips

PY0909153588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
11022 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 8 Sep [date as received] (TELAM-DPA)—Citing official Uruguayan Government sources, the weekly BUSQUEDA reported today that the Uruguayan Government will not authorize port services to ships of any nationality that may link, on a regular basis, Montevideo with Puerto Argentino, on the Malvinas Islands, in the South Atlantic.

According to the source, not identified by BUSQUEDA, Uruguay has authorized port operations to more than 20 ships coming from or going to that zone on an irregular basis. It has been confirmed that ships not carrying out regular services between the two maritime ports will be authorized to continue their operations at the main Uruguayan port. [passage omitted]

Signatures for Full Stop Referendum Questioned

PY0809183388 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0618 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] Montevideo, 7 Sep (EFE)—Today the Uruguayan electoral court reported that it has formally rejected 54,200 signatures from the list of people who are promoting a referendum against the Full Stop Law applied to the trials of military officers who violated human rights during the last military government.

According to the numbers reported by the electoral court, 579,782 signatures were approved before the final tally.

The pro-referendum organizers have collected 20,000 signatures more than the minimum required by the Constitution to hold a referendum. According to the Constitution, the signatures of 25 percent of the elegible voters, that is about 555,000 people, are needed to hold a plebiscite.

Last month the pro-referendum presented to the court the signatures of 634,000 citizens.

The electoral court announced that on 12 September, it will begin the final tally of signatures to compare them with the signatures of those on the citizenry registry charts.

Seven to ten percent of the signatures are discarded in this final tally, thus the call for a referendum could be jeopardized.

According to Deputy Ruben Diaz, from the Colorado Party, about 4,000 of the signatures that are discarded belong to people who have died before the law that will be questioned in the referendum was passed.

The deputy said: "It is regrettable, but if respectful, the national pro-referendum committee will have to apologize for this situation."

The referendum is being sponsored by social organizations, leftist parties, former Tupamaros guerrillas, and minority groups from the traditional Colorado Party currently in government, and the opposition Blanco party.

Tomorrow, the pro-referendum committee will hold a news conference to reply to the charges against it, and to denounce "obscure maneuvers" as stated today by Communist Deputy Gonzalo Carambula.

Suriname

Bouterse on Army-Foreign Ministry 'Problems'

FL0909214588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Sep 88

[Text] There are problems between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense on the one hand and the National Army on the other which may have critical consequences, Commander Bouterse (?reported) last Wednesday to Army cadres in the (Mendebuko) barracks. The Army commander cited a few cases to demonstrate how these problems have manifested themselves. Commander Bouterse said, among others, that a correct approach (?by the Army) presented a diplomatic [words indistinct] with France.

Although it has been proved several times that French soldiers are fighting on the side of the terrorists in east Suriname against our country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs still wanted to approve the appointment of the French military attache to Suriname. Earlier the Army had indicated its fierce opposition to this appointment.

The work of the Army is being stagnated because decisions of the Council of Ministers have not been taken so far, according to Bouterse. The Army leader finally indicated the lack of necessary resources to execute the orders of the government.

President Swears In New Envoy to Netherlands

FL0709185888 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The Surinamese people should stay on the alert in respect to the image of the country abroad which will affect our reputation.

This was stated by President Ramsewak Shankar yesterday at the swearing in of Cyrill Ramkisoor as ambassador to Holland. According to the head of state, there are forces in the interior as well as abroad which are not serving Surinamese interests.

The president told the new ambassador he is among others expected to give impetus to the political relations with Holland. He said we are in favor of good and stable relations based on equality and the respect for each other's internal affairs.

The Surinamese head of state said finally, Ambassador Ramkisoor can count on the support and confidence of the government in the great task awaiting him.

Union Urges Action Against 'Unbearable' Situation

FL0709191288 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The board of the Moederbond trade union federation this morning organized a short work stoppage for member unions. The work stoppage was proclaimed to hold a protest in this region and to present a petition to the president and the chairman of the National Assembly.

With the action, the trade union federation wants to draw the attention of the government to the price hike and the (?extensive) corruption of civil servants.

In the petition, the Moederbond acknowledges its full responsibility for the government policy but from the workers perspective. The trade union federation furthermore states that the situation of unpayable prices gravely threatens the social security of the workers which may lead to social unrest. The Moederbond therefore urges the government to take measures soon to normalize the unbearable situation for the people.

Union Objects to Draft Law on Council Seats

FL0709193588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] The trade union federation PWO [Progressive Workers' Organization] says it cannot accept the draft law for the [words indistinct] of the State Council. In a letter to the president, the PWO says the organization, in respect to the allocation of seats, makes the draft law unacceptable.

According to the draft law, political parties [words indistinct] while others are [words indistinct]. Supporters of sectional groups are furthermore represented through political parties because they also voted during the general election last year.

The State Council is [words indistinct] the president on important national issues while it should also exercise control on the current execution of positions taken by the National Assembly.

Political parties in the Assembly, said the trade union movement, the business sector, and the military authority are, too, excluded from this important organ.

The trade union federation is of the opinion that the proposed allocation cannot be accepted and has made another proposal to the president.

The division of seats as proposed in the draft law gives 10 members for the government coalition while the other 9 seats will have to be divided between the remaining parties of sectional groupings. [sentence as heard]

Bouterse Sees 'Flaws'

FL0909123488 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Sep 88

[Text] The commander of the National Army, Desi Bouterse, last Tuesday met with some groups at his cabinet to discuss the draft law of the State Council. The commander made this move because he is of the opinion that the draft law on the State Council shows technical and legal flaws which can lead to political problems in the future. During the meeting, the commander spoke among others about the composition and function of the State Council as they are listed in the Constitution.

The groups which were present at the meeting and which made important contributions to the realization of the Constitution say that the government must make sure that the State Council functions in the manner prescribed in the Constitution. According to them, the composition, task, and authority of the State Council are geared to realize the aims of this council in accordance to the Constitution. The State Council must be an organ which must advise the president on national issues and exercise control over the execution of decisions taken by the National Assembly.

Consumer Group 'Disappointment' With Price Policy

FL0709195388 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Education Minister Venetiaan has called on the population not to buy expensive educational necessities since the government is trying to make these items available at reasonable prices.

Parents are desperate at the moment because of the exorbitant prices that have to be paid for school items.

Minister Venetiaan said the government has held talks with bookstores and that a local firm has a number of exercise books which will be sold at reasonable prices.

The director of the bookstore told (?Venetiaan) the exercise books cannot yet be sold since the foreign currency has not yet been transferred to the dealer.

Meanwhile, the Consumers Interest Organization, CDO, has voiced its disappointment about the price policy of the government. The organization, which also mentions the problem of [words indistinct] items, says that shop owners demand high prices for the items while the consumers are left to [words instinct]. The CDO has requested a meeting with the Ministry of Economic Affairs to discuss the matter.

Health Minister on Availability of Medicine

FL0709203588 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Sep 88

[Text] Public Health Minister Henk Alimahomed told the press yesterday that despite the shortage of medicines, there is no need for great concern. He said his ministry has 6 million guilders at its disposal to purchase medicine from Holland and that the shipments were expected here within 3 months. The minister said 15 percent was, however, not yet arrived.

He explained that orders were sent in different shipments and that certain items were sent to Suriname on more than one occasion. Also, shipments with the wrong contents were sent to our country.

Minister Alimahomed said these developments stagnate the distribution since there is no good overview of the medications available. He stated that mistakes were made in Holland with the purchasing and shipping of the medicines.

The public health minister said certain medicines are still not available but that most medications are available. Minister Alimahomed said that his ministry and the Dutch Embassy here are doing everything possible to get the remaining 15 percent to Suriname within the shortest possible time.